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HOME NEWS

Board to publish safety analysis of nuclear power stations after criticism of unnecessary secrecy

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The safety analyses for individual nuclear power stations are to be published for the first time by the Central Electricity Generating Board. That important change of procedure could go a long way to meeting criticisms about unnecessary secrecy.

The issue was the subject of an early day motion tabled in the Commons on Monday calling on the Government "for the immediate release not of any abridged summary, but of the full secret, unabridged safety reports on the pressurized water reactor and the advanced gas-cooled reactor".

The board's action will satisfy a large part of the request, but not in detail. The studies will be ready next year, with safety reports covering the second advanced gas-cooled reactor, to be built at Heysham, Lancashire, and an identical system at Torness, Scotland.

Planning approval has been given for both sites. The final stage before work starts on both stations, in the spring, is to obtain a licence from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate based on a pre-construction safety report.

The generating board's intention is to publish a shortened version. The full documentation

of a safety analysis for an advanced gas-cooled reactor would probably be issued if proposals for a nuclear power station at Portskewett, south Wales, are pursued.

Mr R. R. Matthews, director of health and safety for the board, said yesterday that it was a matter of feeling a way to the best method of providing information which was often in highly technical form.

Commercial confidentiality and the security of plant has to be considered. But he believed those aspects could be resolved by indicating clearly the nature of sensitive information which was left out of a public report.

The safety documents consist of several reports, some are related only to a particular reactor under examination, in addition, safety analysis, a continuous process for a specific type of reactor, allowing for advances in design and for refinements in the methods of fuel analyses.

The need to prepare the full safety documents for the pressurized water reactor for which Government approval was given yesterday, is regarded as an inevitable requirement for the public inquiry.

No design or safety documents appropriate for a pressurized water reactor for construction on a CEGB site, have yet been prepared.

Dismissed police chief wins claim

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

Mr Edmund Garvey, the former head of the Irish Republic's police force, who was dismissed by the Minister of Justice in January, 1978, was awarded damages against the State of £1,700 in the High Court in Dublin yesterday.

The court had decided at a previous hearing that Mr Garvey had been wrongly dismissed and the Supreme Court had rejected a State appeal against the decision.

Former Commissioner Garvey was dismissed by Mr Gerry Collins, the Minister of Justice, after he refused to tender his resignation. Relations between Mr Garvey and the Fianna Fail Government, which swept to power in June, 1977, had been noticeably cool.

The total award made to Mr Garvey included an agreed figure of £1,204 for loss of interest by not receiving his salary from the time of his removal from office until he officially resigned last May.

Orangemen prepare mass demonstration in Ulster

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Ulster's Orangemen are preparing a major demonstration in the city of Belfast as their answer to the Government's attempt to hand back powers to the province.

The protest has been timed to influence the outcome of present political manoeuvrings which probably will result in an attempt to establish an elected assembly next year, whether by agreement or imposition.

The Orangemen believe the Government will announce its intentions in the spring, and have called the demonstration for March 15—two days before St Patrick's Day.

The main messages will be on security, the principle of one equal vote to each citizen. There will be strong emphasis on the need to improve the effectiveness of the locally recruited, part-time police and soldiers in releasing the regular Army for intensive border security duties.

The Orangemen want more men in the Ulster Defence Regiment and the police reserves and believe they should be more effectively deployed.

Man cleared of rifle killing

From Our Correspondent
Liverpool

Steven Sidor, aged 26, who admitted having fired the .22 rifle bullet that killed Wendy Wayne, aged 10, at riding stables at Rainhill, Merseyside, was found not guilty of her manslaughter by a jury at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday. He was discharged.

Mr Sidor, of Banner Hey, Whiston, Merseyside, had told the jury that while shooting with pistols and a rifle at tins at Blundells Hill Farm, Whiston, he saw a starling land on the apex of a barn roof.

"I do not know why I fired at it," he said. "It just landed

and I swung round and took a quick shot." Later, when a friend telephoned to him and told him his little girl had been shot it was obvious to him that it was his bullet.

Mr Michael Maguire, QC, for the defence, said Mr Sidor should not be penalised for a crime when he was only responsible for a one-chance-in-a-million accidental killing.

The court was told that the girl was 500 yards away from the place where Mr Sidor fired the rifle and the bullet struck her behind the ear while she was having a piggyback on another girl, aged 14. She died two hours later.

Changing working-class views vital in education

By Diana Geddes

Changes in working-class attitudes were far more important in determining the future of higher education than changes in the birth rate, Professor E. G. Edwards, of Bradford University, told a conference in Brighton yesterday.

He said the Department of Education and Science was obsessed with birth rate fluctuations, leading to variations in the size of the 18-year-old age group.

His study of higher education growth rates over the past 100 years suggested that it was the size of the age group belonging to the managerial and professional classes that was important, and that was determined mainly by social mobility rates, not birth rates.

These social classes had been expanding much faster than the population as a whole, and the fluctuations in their growth rate was closely similar to the changes in the growth rate of higher education in the corresponding periods.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Society for Research into Higher Education, Professor Edwards said that from 1960 to about 1955 higher education had expanded at a fairly uniform rate, doubling in size every 25 years. From 1955 to 1970, the doubling period had dropped to about eight years.

Science undergraduates favourites for firsts

By Our Education Correspondent

Undergraduates reading science or technology subjects are more than three times more likely to be awarded a first-class degree than those reading social science subjects, although their average A level qualifications are of an almost identical standard.

Mr Thomas Bourner, a lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic, presented the results of his analysis of first degree classifications and entry qualifications to universities, polytechnics and other maintained colleges during the period 1971-75, at the annual conference of the Society for Research into Higher Education, in Brighton yesterday.

At universities, 13 per cent

10,000 fewer training places for unemployed

By David Featon
Labour Reporter

The probable terms of a public inquiry into a proposed water reactor station, to be built at Sizewell, Suffolk, form the subject for one of the most critical of the opposition voices to the atomic power programme.

A joint letter from the Friends of the Earth and the Council for the Protection of Rural England to the Government points to irreconcilable differences between the scope of a public inquiry and the type of assessment that is needed for such immense technological programmes.

Our Political Staff writes: "Implications of the Government's latest statement on the nuclear power programme are to be investigated by the new Commons Select Committee on Environment.

The committee stated yesterday that it will examine the energy projections and the assumptions about contributions from other sources on which the future role of nuclear power has been based; the safety, operational and industrial issues raised by pressurized water reactors; the best methods by which the final decisions would be reached in the interests of public accountability and information; and the implications of the proposed reorganization of the nuclear power industry.

The first area to feel the cuts will be the Training Opportunities Programme, where the number of places available will be reduced from 60,000 to 70,000.

The commission plans a switch of resources in its four-year plan, which will be presented to the Government for approval. It is recommending an increase next year of 10,000 to 260,000 in the number of places available under the Youth Opportunities Programme for training and work experience.

Other changes planned are in the general employment service, where the commission is considering merging the Professional and Executive Recruitment section with the general service.

The commission said the cuts were bound to have an effect on groups of people less able to withstand the problems of unemployment such as the unskilled worker, ethnic minorities, the elderly and the disabled.

There will probably be changes in the Skillscentre network, cuts in advisory services and staff reductions in the employment service, although there are not expected to be any redundancies.

Commission officials are seeking an early meeting with Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, to stress the dangers involved in the cuts at a time when employment prospects were "daunting". The commission will also request support from the European Social Fund.

Crisis in the steel towns 4—How Millom coped with closure 11 years ago

Light industry and commuting help recovery

From John Charles
Millom, Cumbria

It all happened to Millom 11 years ago. The closure of the Millom iron works, just five weeks after a report in a local newspaper was confirmed by the management, involved only 500 jobs but proportionately it was just as great a shock to a population of 7,000, all dependent on the one industry, as any of the impending events in Port Talbot, and Consett and elsewhere.

The unemployment rate is officially between 9 and 10 per cent of the insured population which means that there are about 150 men and 150 women without jobs. These statistics do not really put the place in the "distressed area" class.

Long, consistent efforts by 11 different agencies including the former Copeland District Council and a former principal planning officer in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, have had social cohesion and family life and it is sometimes the prelude to the removal of families from the town altogether."

Everyone in Millom agrees that they would have been in a much worse plight if it had not been for Windscale which not only provides well-paid industry

trial jobs with good fringe benefits, but also offers the only training and career opportunities for the high-flyers in the town's comprehensive school. They either continue to start in a career with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd or they have to leave home altogether.

Mr Peter Finch is in charge of the first factory which was established after the iron works shut. Drum Closures Ltd, a highly specialized factory employing 45 people making the snap-on rings which seal almost every circular container of every commodity from lubricating oil to cyanide used in this country. He says he was one of the lucky ones.

He was in charge of a main research department at the iron works and had been there for 20 years. For six months he had to travel 50 miles to Workington to earn a living, then his present employers opened their plant in the last surviving building of the Millom Henna

Company.

"The people I felt sorry for were the skilled blast-furnace men," he said. "They were the aristocrats of their industry and overnight they were on the job market as labourers."

Most of those aristocrats, if

seems, have settled down to those daily long-hauls to Windermere or Barrow but many are still looking for retirement. One who preferred not to be identified said: "At the time, it seemed as though the end of our world had come, but looking back, those jobs in the old iron works were not all that great."

"It was hard, dirty work and we did not earn all that much. Perhaps it has all turned out for the best even if we do have to spend an hour or two in trains or cars every day."

Two rather remarkable things happened at Millom when the iron works closed. Few of the men stayed on the dole for more than a week or two. They preferred to accept the unpleasantness of early morning journeys to work elsewhere. The local Co-operative Society went into liquidation because all the thrifty wives drew out their savings for the rainy day they thought had come.

Mr Peter Cross, a Cumbria County Councillor and the council acknowledged "father of the town" had a message for places like Consett. "We have fought back. We will go on fighting back. It's a long, slow business, but I think we are winning." Concluded

Race case against tax officials

By a Staff Reporter

The Inland Revenue is to be taken to court under the Race Relations Act, 1976, because of its policy of demanding a full birth certificate from coloured immigrants wanting tax relief for children while only requiring a short certificate from everyone else.

The Court of Appeal ruled on Tuesday that a case against the Inland Revenue for racial discrimination had to be heard by Nottingham County Court although the county court judge originally ruled that there was no cause of action because the Inland Revenue was not covered by the Act.

The case was brought by Mr Prabhakar Savjani, a Kenyan Asian, living in Leicestershire, who went to his local tax office to obtain a birth certificate for his British-born child in June 1977. He was told a full certificate was required when none of the white applicants was asked for one.

He took the case to Nottingham County Court where the Registrar said there was no cause of action and was upheld by the judge.

Mr Savjani was told that the Inland Revenue had introduced the rule for immigrants in 1968 following a report from the Public Accounts Committee which said that fraudulent claims had been made by immigrants wanting tax relief. That was eight years before the new Race Relations Act was introduced.

Lord Justice Donaldson, sitting with Lord Justice Browne, said on Tuesday that it was an appeal which raised important issues under the Race Relations Act. The Inland Revenue was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Savjani, who is being supported by the Commission for Racial Equality, is alleging that the Inland Revenue is covered by Section 20 of the Act which says that it is unlawful for any person concerned with the provision of goods, facilities or services to discriminate.

If a government minister wants to discriminate for reasons of public policy, there is provision for him to do so under procedures laid down in Section 41 of the Act, but those had not been followed. Mrs Shirley Williams, then Secretary of State for Education, used those procedures to introduce differential grants for overseas students.

Ramblers seek to outlaw trail riders

By Our Planning Reporter

The use of non-essential motor vehicles on land used solely or largely for agriculture or forestry should be banned by law, the Ramblers' Association states in a booklet published today.

Its publication comes at a time of growing controversy about the number of vehicles, particularly motor cycles, using so-called green roads in the countryside, such as the Ridgeway. Just as pedestrians have no right to walk on motorways, so they should not be allowed to long-distance paths, it says.

The association observes that the sources of unpleasant noise in the countryside are growing in number and extent. But despite that, little effective legislative or administrative action has been taken to regulate them.

It expresses particular concern at the growth of trail riding, on motorcycles especially adapted for cross country use.

The booklet points out that there are about 150,000 miles of surfaced roads in the countryside of England and Wales, available for use by all motorists and motorcyclists, compared with about 100,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways. There are also some 60,000 acres of derelict land within which might be many suitable sites for rough riding.

It suggests that exemptions to the ban should be made for authorized competitive events, trials, etc., and trials, trials, Ramblers' Association, 1-3 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LJ.

'Twilight world' woman awarded £96,000

A woman, aged 22, who was confined to a "twilight existence" when a minor operation went wrong, was awarded £96,000 in damages in a legal battle against the NHS.

Miss Kalpana Patel suffered a cardiac arrest while anaesthetized for an operation on her hip at Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital at Greenwich, London.

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Complaints of sadism and brutality on Broadmoor patients

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Some patients at Broadmoor special hospital are brutally treated, and some staff are intimidated by a small group of bullying nurses, it was said in London yesterday.

Allegations of ill-treatment including the use of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), in one case without anaesthetic, known among patients as the "punishment box", were made at a press conference given by the National Association for Mental Health's Mind campaign.

Two nurses who recently resigned from the staff, Mr Colin Byrne, a senior nurse at Broadmoor for two years, and Mr Tony Van Roon, a staff nurse for four years, alleged that 50 of the 500 nursing staff had a "deplorable attitude to patients and in the male wing, about ten were 'real sadists'".

Mr Tony Snyman, director of Mind, said successive Secretaries of State knew about the appalling conditions in the special hospitals, Broadmoor, Tipton, Moss Side and Park Lane, but took no action.

The two Broadmoor nurses had been interviewed by Department of Health officials and Mind had written to Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services. His "profoundly unsatisfactory" reply convinced them that nothing much would be done unless the matter was made public.

The allegations would rub off on many devoted nurses, but there was no more oppressed minority than mental patients in our special hospitals. They were unpopular, with proper complaints system and no one to speak up for them. The allegations required urgent reexamination of the system.

A senior consultant psychiatrist at the hospital, it was

said, had given ECT to a young schizophrenic patient who was held down by six nurses. He was obviously in much pain.

In a catalogue of alleged incidents at Broadmoor, the two nurses say their patients were hit and kicked, had wet towels twisted round their necks and hot and then cold water poured over them.

Patients were put into seclusion or periods of seclusion days to punish for breaking minor rules, talking back or swearing.

Most patients, it was said, were kept quiet by large drug doses. Some received over 1,000 milligrams of benzodiazepine daily.

Mr Byrne and Mr Roan were seen by DHSS officials. Mr Byrne said yesterday that he resigned the day after the Prison Officers' Association discovered his identity. "I feared physical and psychological reprisals", he said. "I served only one day of my notice."

The "bully boys" on the staff mocked any nurse who did not agree with their attitude. A nurse could be isolated and left to cope alone with a difficult patient.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham West, vice-chairman of the all-party Mental Health Committee, said: "There appeared to be strict codes among staff about what was talked about."

Nurses in the special hospitals belong to the Prison Officers' Association or no organization at all. At Broadmoor some time ago a student nurse tried to set up a Royal Society of Nursing group. The attempt failed.

The allegations are under police investigation and the DHSS last night declined to comment.

BA pleases East Midland television pressure group

By Arthur Osman
Nottingham

The East Midlands forum of county councils said yesterday it was "shocked" it had been "greatly heartened" by a letter from Lady Plowden, chairman of the Independent Broadcasters' Authority, about the future of commercial television in the region. In it she had acknowledged that the region had made and the authority was examining how they could best meet within the context of an independent television area.

Whatever has happened to the Lancastrian consortium has nothing to do with us. While Lady Plowden agreed to meet me, I understand she declined to meet them. We are greatly heartened by her letter for it shows that she and her colleagues have been deeply impressed by the case we made for the region.

Lady Plowden had been told that the best interests of the region's four million people were not met by being served by a company (ATV) also covering the West Midlands and based in Birmingham.

It was said that ATV, with 13 counties to cover, had an almost impossible job. It is expected that the IBA will satisfy the region's aspiration with a split franchise, covering the Midlands. If ATV continues it is thought the authority will insist on a separate board of directors, a separate budget and a studio centre in the region.

The contracts will be advertised next month.

ston Martin

Tie in car fire
John Symonds, chief executive of the Aston Martin company, and Beryl, his wife, were taken to hospital yesterday after their £20,000 Aston Martin car was destroyed by a few miles from their home at Deddington, Oxfordshire. They crawled out in time and were taken to hospital at Banbury.

Farmers' plea on drink-driving law

The law should be changed to allow farmers disqualifed from driving for drink driving offences to drive tractors on the road, a branch of the National Farmers' Union says.

A disqualification created undue hardship for a farmer who farmed. Mr P. H. Jones told a meeting of Montgomeryshire county branch, Wales:

Group seeks welfare pledge from Government

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

MPs are urged today to ask why the Government has no plans to reduce the numbers dependent on supplementary benefit or to provide claimants with adequate incomes.

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The allegations are under police investigation and the DHSS last night declined to comment.

The action group's briefing draws MPs' attention to the general opposition expressed to the idea that the supplementary benefits scheme should be adopted to a mass role, an idea now to be implemented in the Bill.

It is inexplicable that the Government has rejected the advice of the SBC and of the DESS civil servants who carried out the review that the highest priority should be given to extending the long-term rate to the unemployed, it says. At the last count there were 215,000 unemployed claimants who had been on supplementary benefits for more than a year; that would be the new qualifying period for the higher long-term rate for all other claimants under pension age.

The Bill is expected to be opposed on second reading today by Labour MPs, mainly because the Bill intends to tie pension increases to price rises. They are also concerned about the changes to the supplementary benefits scheme particularly the proposal to make local social security officers the determining authority for claims.

Letters, page 13



Photograph by Bill Warburton

Greater London Council has 40,000 tons of rock salt, 20ft high and as big as a football pitch, at Edmonton, north London, in case of a big freeze

Environmental control reduces rate of industry's acute diseases

By Annabel Ferriman

People at work have rising expectations about their conditions and will no longer tolerate those that were perfectly acceptable 30 years ago, Dr Kenneth Duncan, Director of Medical Services at the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday.

The incidence of bronchitis among coal miners, however, was probably due more to poor living conditions than their jobs because their wives had the same incidence rate. Pneumoconiosis had been steadily declining because of the reduction of coal dust levels.

Dr Duncan said that one of the most important tasks the service was undertaking was in establishing acceptable standards of exposure for workers to toxic substances. In the past, not enough trouble had been taken in putting sound biological data into determining such standards.

He said: "If we do not get the science right, the end results will be wrong."

The report gives details of the work done in establishing standards for asbestos, asbestos substitutes, lead and carcinogens. It also outlines the survey commissioned by the service on the effects of white asbestos

metals, such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Bronchitis could be connected with jobs that cause lung irritation because of the prevalence of dust.

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The report gives details of the work done in establishing standards for asbestos, asbestos substitutes, lead and carcinogens. It also outlines the survey commissioned by the service on the effects of white asbestos

and the service's own register of all workpeople exposed to lead.

It gives examples of the service's case work. During 1977 and 1978 its doctors and nurses advised tattooists on sterilization techniques, blacksmiths on how to avoid occupational hernias, and women working in a wallpaper paste factory on how to prevent recurring nose bleeds.

In a prawn-peeling factory it was discovered that the jets of compressed air used for removing meat from prawn tails resulted in the workers suffering respiratory difficulties. The service recommended that the technique be discontinued.

The service also sold 7,000 copies of its booklet *Occupational Health Services: The Way Ahead* and examined young people with medical employment difficulties and disabled work people through its rehabilitation and fitness for work schemes.

Health and Safety Employment Medical Advisory Service Report 1977-78 (Stationery Office, £1 plus postage. ISBN 0 11 883322 1).

Gloomy background to housing Bill

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government's housing Bill is to be published today against the gloomiest background for many years. New building in the public and private sectors has shown a steady decline and the present mortgage interest level, although it has brought a rapid halt to price inflation, has entailed considerable hardship and disappointment.

Ministers claim not to be worried unduly by the fall in the number of buildings being started because capital spending is being diverted to renovation schemes. Of that, however, there is little evidence. What is only too clear is that private house improvement has been seriously hampered by available grants failing to keep pace with inflation, despite last month's relaxation in the eligibility rules.

Applications are likely to be applied to the sale of council properties in national parks, which would otherwise attract second-home buyers, and of houses built for special needs, such as those for the old and handicapped. But fears are discounted that villages will rapidly lose their small stocks of publicly owned homes to eligibility rules.

Aside from the predictable opposition of the Labour Party and of a section of the housing lobby, many people would welcome steps to release more land owned by local authorities and public undertakings for private housing. That would tie in neatly with Mr Stanley's recent promise to permit councils to guarantee mortgages granted by building societies to first-time buyers.

Leasehold reformers seek changes to avert crisis

By Tim Jones

Leasehold reform campaigners in Britain are hoping the Government's housing Bill will contain two amendments to the present laws to avoid a cruel housing crisis in big inner city areas. Without those changes, the campaigners say, thousands of people, mainly elderly, face the prospect of being evicted from homes they thought they owned.

The crisis has its roots in the industrial revolution when landlords in cities like Cardiff and Birmingham leased land for builders to erect terraced houses to accommodate workers who served the iron and coal masters. Those leases are expiring and the houses will become the property of the freeholders who are in many cases big pension funds or charitable trusts.

Miss Susan Finch, of the Welsh Leasehold Reform Campaign said: "Under present law many leaseholders are faced with the dilemma of having to buy the freehold and for old people on fixed incomes it is just impossible."

If they opt to extend the lease for a further 50 years, thereby losing for ever the right to purchase the freehold, they face ground rent increases from £4 to £300 a year for a property worth £8,000.

"Many old people who cannot afford the cost of freehold purchase and who cannot afford the new ground rent will cease to own their houses and will become tenants in them. If they are unable financially to put their house in order before it is handed over they face eviction."

Environment tax urged for heavy lorries

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

Operators of heavy lorries should be made to pay not only the vehicle's full track costs but also a substantial extra tax on social and environmental grounds, the railway and environmental pressure group, Transport 2000, says in evidence to the Armitage inquiry into road transport.

The Government should also pay the cost of connecting generators of industrial freight to either railways or waterways, and planning policies should attempt to locate freight generators close to rail and water transport.

Heavy lorries are environmentally disastrous and dangerous, Transport 2000 says.

During the past 10 years fuel consumption per ton-mile of road freight increased by 8 per cent. Transport 2000 says.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

FATHER

Happy Christmas

from the number one telegram office

A telegram's worth a thousand words.

Even if you've missed the last post for Christmas, you can still send a telegram for delivery by Christmas Day. But please remember the latest time you can send an international telegram is noon December 21st, and for an inland telegram noon December 24th.

In certain countries your message may have to be delivered by phone.

PARLIAMENT, December 19, 1979

Oil companies not to be prosecuted for breaches of Rhodesia sanctions

House of Commons
The Opposition complained that whereas "the minnows" had been prosecuted, the "big fish" appeared to have got away, when Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, reported in statement that the Director of Public Prosecutions had agreed with the suggestion of the Director of Public Prosecutions that further investigations and public expenditure into possible criminal proceedings against oil companies for breaches of sanctions against Rhodesia would not be justified and that the matter should proceed no further.

Sir Michael Havers (Merton, Wimbledon, C), in his long statement:

It seems that there are over 20,000 files of which at least 14,000 are likely to be relevant. Bearing in mind the substantial amount of time and public money likely to be involved in analysing this mass of material and investigating the evidential material available overseas, counsel were asked to give the DPP further advice.

By the beginning of November, 1979, in an opinion running to almost 50 pages, counsel advised the DPP of the great difficulties in a way of a successful prosecution.

The DPP had to consider the following matters:

(1) The material disclosed by the Bingham investigation was wholly insufficient for the purposes of a criminal trial. Direct evidence of witness from proved documents would be needed.

(2) There was abundant material in the report which showed that, in the period following the meetings in 1968 and 1969, oil and petroleum products had been supplied direct by railway wagon to Southern Rhodesia.

Shortly thereafter, leading and junior counsel were instructed by the Director to advise him whether, in the circumstances disclosed by the report, criminal offences appeared to have been committed and, if so, by whom.

It will be appreciated that the Bingham enquiry was neither a police investigation nor a trial, and it was not, therefore, conducted within the constraints of the rules of evidence or procedure applicable in a court of law.

In February 1968 and again in February, 1969, meetings took place between HM Government and senior officers of Shell and BP. The outcome of those meetings (as the DPP's report) appeared to have been interpreted by the oil companies, rightly or wrongly, as giving them tacit, if not express, approval to operate what has become known as the "oil-for-sandwich" scheme whereby oil and petroleum reached Southern Rhodesia.

It was by no means clear whether and, if so, for precisely what length of time, the so-called "exchange" scheme was operated thereafter.

Against this background the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) appreciated that much more factual information and research into the legal problems and requirements in order to particularise offences, to identify the principal persons acting on behalf of the oil companies and to collect the admissible evidence. Accordingly a team of senior police officers was assigned to take charge of the inquiries, while counsel continued to review the material already available.

Steps were taken in April, 1979, under Schedule 1 to the 1968 sanctions order, to make the oil companies produce all the relevant documents in their possession or under their control.

Counsel were of the opinion that a jury might well be reluctant to convict if there appeared to be some doubt as to the fact that those charged had acted in the belief that their conduct had the express or ostensible consent of the authorities.

(3) Finally, it was apparent that as complex and prolonged an investigation as this would probably not reach the stage of a jury's trial in several years from now, particularly as the defence would be entitled to require full commitment for trial proceedings and strict proof of the essential ingredients of the offences.

Also the trial itself might occupy a jury for as long as 12 months with all the costs that attend such an extended hearing.

The DPP has therefore reached the conclusion that further investigation and public expenditure would not be justified and the matter should proceed no further.

Mr Michael Havers, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Aberconwy, Lab)—This is a matter of grave concern not only in this country, but abroad, and to all who have been concerned with clear breaches of law in this country.

(a) which companies had in fact made these supplies?

(b) who, if any, among the officers, agents or employees of the companies during the relevant period, were knowing parties to such supply?

It was also necessary to seek in determining whether these supplies had been made in contravention of the alleged "understanding" with the oil companies.

(3) Furthermore it was material to have regard to the fact (emphasized in the Bingham report) that many of the companies and their officials were subject to the sanctions, police action being liable to penalties for any refusal or failure to supply oil on demand.

There is no power to compel the attendance of witnesses from abroad.

(4) The available material disclosed (and, indeed, the Bingham investigation found) that many of the principal officials concerned in the contraventions of the sanctions orders were not amenable to our jurisdiction.

Some who appear to have been at the very centre of the operations had since died and others had retired. It was likely to prove difficult in the extreme to establish the complicity and knowledge of their successors.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Rochdale, Salford and Fylde, Lab)—This is an extraordinary statement. Surely the impression he is leaving is that the Conservative Party is to be seen as the major culprit in this affair.

Mr Michael Havers—Other prosecutions have been answered with some given in a number of written answers in this House by me to some Labour MPs. An inquiry is a matter for the Prime Minister.

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ians' view of the big hole which once was the site of Les Halles and which now is taking a long time to fill.

Chirac plan for Les Halles unveiled early

By Ian Murray

Dec 19

It another plan for the development of the biggest in Paris—on the site of former markets, Les Halles was unveiled yesterday by M. Georges Chirac, the city's mayor. Unlike the one scrapped more than a year ago by M. Alain Poher on a small scale it is meant to harmonize the surrounding buildings, responsibility for developing sites being handed over to City of Paris and M. Chirac's rather poisoned gift—Architect Giscard d'Estaing in his last year of office. The design ad selected by the Spanish architect, Ricardo Bofill had into strong opposition or ground of its monumental character on a scale was said to be designed like a monument to the Indian era in France.

In cancelling the project M. Chirac knew that he was making a considerable risk for his own back. He has sought to work discreetly since then to pull together a design both worthy of the site and in keeping with the city's finances.

He failed to do the work secretly enough, however, because the Syndicate for Architecture found out what was going on and issued details to the press yesterday, thus forcing M. Chirac to show his project a month before he planned to do so.

The result is that the model for the new proposed development still lacks a south side, as this had not been completed in M. Chirac's time. Presumably, it will be so by the original unveiling date of January 15.

The model of a showy housing development along the rue Rambuteau by the French architects, Michel

Ducharme, Christian Larras, Jean-Pierre Minot and Jean Cheron, it is high enough to mask the only building at present above ground level on the site, a 90ft high concrete bunker housing the machinery which provides essential services to the underground arcades built into the huge hole.

The design, with bow windows and zinc roofs, is a modern imitation of traditional styles.

For the east side along the rue Pierre-Lescot, the fifteenth design drawn up in the past year by the architect, Jean Willerval has been accepted. A fantasy of metal vaults and glass-covered pavilions it seems to own not a little in its inspiration to the wrought-iron market "quintals" that were pulled down when the site was first levelled. Their object is to provide a covered and at the same time open setting for

small stalls, restaurants and shops. The garden in the centre designed by Louis Aspremont with the cooperation of the sculptor Francois Lalanne, is to contain pergolas covered with vegetation on a raised terrace along the rue Berger.

M. Chirac claimed yesterday that the new design was the result of the work of the best French architects available. He protested strongly that he had no part taken in the place of the professionals in the design of the design, but had merely made decisions at the appropriate moments.

The Syndicate of Architecture called its own press conference later to say that in their view M. Chirac had made his decisions at the wrong moments. They complained about the incoherent juxtaposition of designs, and protested about the way in which everything so far had been done in secret.

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Eluctance at Vatican to discuss ban

By Peter Nichols

Dec 19

Within the Roman Catholic Church, whether the issue is seen as a question of mutual charity between the official hierarchy and the theologians or the view is held that the two sides should provide a mutual stimulus.

Put another way, an Italian theologian said today that he had never heard of a Catholic whose faith had been damaged by the writings of a theologian while he knew of many who had reacted strongly against steps of censorship taken by the ecclesiastical authorities.

This was one of the hazards which the Pope faced when approving the statement issued yesterday which put an official end to the time being to Father Küng's work as a Catholic theologian. The statement did not attempt an analysis of Father Küng's work but rejected him because he had refused to bring his thinking in line with the church's teaching authority despite several warnings.

Everybody interested in these questions knows that Father Küng is not an easy man for the authorities to deal with. He is the age, ecclesiastic, peaking of the mass media, he is not likely to be i from dispute as to whether the kettle is blacker winter's ink than the pot, at really matters is the tone of intellectual freedom

comes to Rome to launch a new book, but he does not find space as Professor Edward Schillebeekx did, to obey the Vatican's summons to appear and answer objections to his views. But that is not the whole picture.

Father Küng wrote a long personal letter to the Pope, asking him not to reimpose traditionalist views and behaviour on priests. That letter was ignored. The extraordinary element is that Father Küng was not been able to find out whether his letter was ever received by the Pope.

Decision attacked: The World Council of Churches issued a statement in Geneva criticising the action taken against Professor Küng.

"The dispute is in essence concerned with the issue of authority in the church which has become the most sensitive issue in ecumenical theological discussion," the council said.

"The action taken against Professor Küng, therefore, cannot be regarded simply as an internal affair of the Roman Catholic Church but has immediate ecumenical repercussions."

Challenge to the doctrine papal infallibility

From page 1

Professor Küng, and Professor Edward Schillebeekx, the Belgian

v deplored them if, in the Dr Ramsey, they entered a trend away from the Second Vatican II and by recent official Roman Catholic agreement on doctrinal points. Dr Ramsey, however, that eccllesiastical law had to moderate the demands of papal authority.

Bishop of St Albans, the v Robert Runcie, who is Bishop of Canterbury-elect, did not wish to be drawn from these statements

Dr. Chadwick, a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, said the views of Protestantism were known not representative of the Roman Church on the issue of infallibility, but he and Anglicans had hoped the Church could have the professor as a "able nuisance."

Recently, Professor had been in trouble with German Roman Catholic because of some passing in *On Being a Christian* appeared to be incompatible with Roman Catholicism on the Resurrection. Sacred Congregation gathered his writings on in 1973 it issued a majority of the doctrine, spokesmen offered to drop against Professor Küng accepted to it.

In 1975 the Congregation mixed his views by name. Professor Küng had all along the Congregation's proceed against him in as it did, and refused to evidence to it in his own

book *Infallibility*. As he argued, that the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church always had to be added with a measure of the verbal formulation could express the exact

He preferred the idea of Church spoke—if necessary through the Pope—with infallibility. It could stray from the main path of truth.

Professor Küng's challenge is only one of several different Roman Catholic reinterpretations of papal power. Two ex cardinals papal increments are

Another respite for France in lamb dispute

From Michael Hornby

Brussels, Dec 19

No court action is to be sought for the time being against France despite its continued illegal restrictions on imports of British lamb, the European Commission decided at its weekly meeting here today. This decision will not be reconsidered for at least another three weeks.

Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture in London said Mr Peter Walker, the Minister, would be telephoning Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Agriculture Commissioner tomorrow morning to demand a full explanation of this further delay.

Mr Walker was making it clear that if the French have not returned to legality by January 7, when the European Court of Justice next sits, he expects the Commission to take France to court immediately.

The French had been given until the end of last week to remove all curbs on lamb imports and Mr Gundelach assured Mr Walker last week that the Commission would "assume its legal responsibilities" if this ultimate sum was not met.

The European Court of Justice has already censured France once for banning lamb imports.

This is the main outstanding issue between Anglicanism and the Roman Catholic Church.

The most recent joint statement of the two churches' theological commission identified the issue of the limits of papal authority—both in doctrine and in discipline—as crucial matters on which the two churches did not see eye to eye.

The Anglican representatives, whose views have since been broadly endorsed both by the Lambeth Conference last year and the general synod of the Church of England, accepted that the Bishop of Rome had a unique responsibility in the Christian church to preserve its unity and integrity, but they could not accept the extent of that authority as exemplified in the present centralized structure of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ministers, along with the Vice-President of the State Council, the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, the senior presidents of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and

the Audit Office, the prosecutors for these two courts and the Government's own Secretary General are authorized to have the limits of papal authority—both in doctrine and in discipline—as crucial matters on which the two churches did not see eye to eye.

A long memorandum, aimed at energy saving has been circulated from the office of M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, setting out strict new rules and regulations about who can drive what kind of car and when.

From now on, the edict says, no-one below ministerial rank or its equivalent can have a Government car producing more than 7 hp.

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The challenges to our security and to our way of life in the coming 10 years, she said, may be more acute than in the seventies, but the leaders of the Western nations would need to be firm, calm and united.

"Neither weakness nor anger nor despair will serve us," she observed. "The problems are daunting, but in my view there is ample reason for optimism."

OVERSEAS

Bishop Muzorewa persuaded to sign ceasefire agreement after assurances by Governor

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Dec 19

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council (Uanc), today ended his brief resistance against signing the Lancaster House talks.

The statement also said it was incorrect that Lord Soames had been instructed by the British Government to open new assembly areas wherever the Patriotic Front could produce 1,000 or more combatants.

These would be created only if guerrillas assembled in numbers greater than could be dealt with at designated assembly places, and this was considered unlikely, it added.

Continuing his meetings with the country's political, civil and military leaders, Lord Soames today had his first contact with the internal representatives of the Patriotic Front—M. Cephas Mpofu, representing Zapu and M. Abdu Nyagumbo representing Zanu.

Yesterday, Bishop Muzorewa announced he was delaying his return to London until he received clarification of news reports regarding concessions allegedly made by Britain to persuade the Patriotic Front to accept the ceasefire terms. These clarifications now have been made.

Today, Government House, responding to the Bishop's explanation for delaying his departure, issued a statement aimed at correcting "misunderstandings" published in the Rhodesian press about what had taken place in London.

The statement said the deci-

sion to increase the number of Party (Zdp) headed by Mr James Chikereza, today presented a petition to Government House calling on Lord Soames to end the payment of salaries and expenses to former ministers, senators and MPs from the last Parliament.

The petition pointed out that, for example, Ministers who remain nominally at their posts but who have been ousted over their power to the Governor would continue to draw salary and expenses based on £19,333 a year and other allowances until independence.

The petition stated that the payment of unearned salaries not only constituted a gross misuse of public funds, but gave the recipients an unfair advantage in the coming election.

Mr Chikereza told a press conference that he and the Zdp members who sat in the last Parliament would stand down receiving their salaries from the end of this month. If Lord Soames failed to take any action he would take the matter to court. He added, Rev Ndagabangi Sithole's Zanu party had made similar complaints.

A military statement today announced the deaths of three more white civilians. Two were killed near Penhalonga in the eastern border region where they worked, and the third was blown up by a landmine. Both days were also reported of one member of the security forces, five black civilians, eight guerrillas and four "collaborators".

Lord Soames gave no firm undertakings but undertook to look into these matters. Mr Mpofu said, he added that Lord Soames told him he would be "firm but impartial".

The Zimbabwe Democratic

Iran shows little concern at threat of US blockade

From Robert Fisk

Tehran, Dec 19

Tens of thousands of Iranians followed the hearse carrying Ayatollah Muhammad Khatami past the gates of the occupied American Embassy in Tehran today in a display of grief for the Islamic revolution who was murdered in this city yesterday.

The ritual mourning of one of Ayatollah Khomeini's closest aides whose death is regarded by the Revolutionary Council as the word of the American Central Intelligence Agency—might have prompted the mourners to invade the embassy where 30 staff are still being held hostage. But Iranian anger is a carefully controlled phenomenon which usually stops short of outright aggression. Today, for instance, there was no official reaction to reports that the United States was threatening to take "non-violent military action" against Iran if the hostages were not put on trial.

An economic blockade enforced by the American Sixth Fleet—for that is presumably what "non-violent military action" would principally entail—would halt Iran's exports of oil to Japan and the West without strangling the economy. Likewise, East European imports would continue to flow freely across the frontiers from the Soviet Union and Turkey.

However, the United States—once a principal supplier of wheat and rice—cut back its imports when American dockers refused to load ships bound for Iranian harbours. Pakistan and Thailand now export foodstuffs to Iran and the Americans would be unable to interfere with land traffic from Pakistan. Likewise, East European imports would continue to flow freely across the frontiers from the Soviet Union and Turkey.

A naval blockade, therefore, while it may look physically impressive—and while it may sound persuasive in the mouth of a White House press spokesman—could take a long time before it made any obvious impression on the Iranian economy. Besides, ships which chose to ignore a blockade would face the Americans with an agonising decision: placing a cordon sanitaire around a country's territorial waters is one thing—opening fire on unarmed merchant ships is quite another.

The Americans could perhaps jam Iran's telephone and radio systems which rely on satellite communication. But President Carter would probably think twice before breaking the communications of a country with which he himself is anxious to communicate.

The most pressing communication problem is how the students in the embassy are going to cope with the hundreds of packages of Christmas mail which have arrived from the United States for the hostages. Among the latest mail to arrive in Tehran is a 10ft by 64ft Christmas card, which appears to have been signed by the entire population of Panama City, Florida.

Meanwhile, a United Nations General Assembly resolution on sanctions condemning Britain and the United States for having lifted sanctions against Rhodesia instead of acting in the Security Council was not being taken very seriously in London, which appears to have been removed with the return of Rhodesia to legality.

It is expected that the Security Council will lift sanctions by the end of the week.

Soames adviser: Mr Robert Jackson, Conservative member of the European Parliament for Upper Thames, has become temporary personal adviser to Lord Soames (David Wood writes).

Lord Soames asked Mr Jackson three weeks ago to join him in Salisbury as an adviser, the role he played while Lord Soames was Vice-President of the EEC Commission responsible for External Affairs.

Mr Jackson, who was born in Johannesburg and brought up in Rhodesia, will be unpaid.

Sanctions lifted: Canada and Germany have announced lifting of sanctions against Rhodesia, and Switzerland intends to do so in the new year.

—Agence France-Presse.

Korchnoi's son jailed for evading military service

From James Reston

New York, Dec 19

was reported by the official news agency Tass in its English service, but the report did not say what sentence was imposed.

He was arrested in Moscow last month after almost a year in hiding.

Mrs Berta Korchnoi, speaking by telephone, said: "The verdict was that Igor was an especially dangerous criminal who must be isolated from society."

Her son told the court that if he could make offer for wanting to join his father to join him in the West.

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Igor Korchnoi's conviction

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OVERSEAS

Scientists tell Soviet public that fears about safety of nuclear power stations are groundless

From Michael Birnboim

Moscow, Dec 19
The Soviet Union's most senior scientists have again publicly defended nuclear energy and said the country is determined to press ahead with its ambitious programme of nuclear power station construction.

But they disclosed at an unprecedented open press conference yesterday that ordinary Russians living near power stations are worried by the safety issue. Their fears were dismissed as groundless.

Limited public debate on nuclear power began only six weeks ago when a nuclear scientist in the Soviet Academy of Sciences wrote in an influential ideological journal that nuclear power stations used up too much land and water, could ecologically exhaust populated regions and could lead to radiation leaks during the transport of fuel containers.

This article was given wide publicity and suggested there was disagreement in senior Soviet scientific circles over the issue.

Yesterday, however, Professor Anatoly Aleksandrov, president of the academy and the chief advocate of nuclear energy, categorically dismissed all doubts: "There are no insuperable problems in atomic energy," he said. "Atomic energy is one of the safest industrial technologies."

He said nuclear power stations were safer than oil or

coal-fired stations, and posed no threat to the environment or to the population.

He gave a surprisingly sharp rebuff to a fellow academician, Professor Nikolai Dolzhikov, who wrote in *Kommunist* that ordinary Russians were frightened by nuclear energy.

The academician admitted that ordinary Russians were frightened by nuclear energy.

He said this fear arose from ignorance and from associations with atomic weapons.

But every qualified nuclear scientist in the world knew it was safe to site atomic stations in populated areas, and even near big cities.

"There has never been a nuclear accident in the Soviet Union," he said. Western reports of an accident at the Shevchenko fast-breeder station in the Ukraine, one of two now in commission, were untrue.

At present 5 per cent of electricity is generated by nuclear power. In 10 years' time this figure would rise to 25 per cent, with atomic stations being built with a capacity of up to 1,500,000 kilowatts.

By the year 2000 nuclear power stations would be sited in every part of the country except where coal was plentiful and cheap to extract or where hydro-electric energy was available. A third of all generation would be from fast-breeder reactors.

Future power stations would also be used to heat towns centrally. Two such stations are now being built near Gorki and Voronezh. Professor Aleksandrov ridiculed the suggestion by the distinguished Soviet physicist Peter Kapitsa

that they should be sited on remote islands, and he asked what transport and communications would be possible there.

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US hope of accord on autonomy of Palestinians

From David Gross

Washington, Dec 19
Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's new Middle East envoy, said today there was a "reasonable possibility" that Egypt and Israel would be able to reach agreement on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and in Gaza by next May as originally planned.

Mr Linowitz, who was talking to reporters in Washington, returned from his first negotiating mission to Cairo and Jerusalem at the end of last week. He replaced Mr Robert Strauss, who is now chairman of President Carter's re-election campaign.

He said that the agreements reached so far had gone a considerable way towards "fleshing out" what had once been the vague concepts of autonomy and self-government.

Moreover, negotiations on less controversial points—like the way in which elections would be conducted, who would voice and how many voices would go to the polls—had been going smoothly for six months.

Mr Linowitz said he was not surprised that Palestinian representatives had so far been unwilling to participate in the talks. While the goal of autonomy remained unclear, the Palestinians were bound not to have much of an incentive to join the talks.

Nevertheless, once the concept of autonomy began to take a clear form and people could see what was in it for them, Palestinian representatives might well change their minds about taking part in the talks, he said.

Iranians reach front: Major Sadiq Hadid, commander of the South Lebanese militia, said today that two contingents of Iranian volunteers had entered Lebanon in the past 24 hours in Syrian Army lorries, which passed border checkpoints without being searched by Lebanese soldiers (Moshe Brillant writes from Tel Aviv).

As quoted by the Israeli defence forces radio station, the major said one unit had camped in a guerrilla base near Naaraya, which had promptly shelled Beirut. Unidentified soldiers told militiamen that they saw another Iranian unit this morning on the road between Nabatya and the Litani river, the report said.

This was denied by Unifil headquarters. Premier resigns: Mr Modar Badran, the Jordanian Prime Minister, resigned today and was replaced by the Chief of the Royal Cabinet, Sharif Abdul-Hamid Sharaf.

Mr Sharaf named a new Cabinet which included Imam Al-Mutti, the first woman in a Jordanian Government since independence

which cause so much harm to the national economy".

The Government threatened yesterday to re-establish a state of siege unless clandestine groups desisted from violent actions. (Agence France-Presse)

Tough stance: The incident in El Salvador has in the past been common enough in the country, but many people had hoped there would be no recurrence under the new regime in the incident at El Congo, 30 miles east of the capital.

A group of landless peasants had taken over the farm where they worked to press their demands for pay increases, the communiqué said.

Troops used bulldozers to try to convince the occupiers, who were supported by guerrillas, to evacuate the farm. Shoots were fired and after a four-hour battle, the authorities counted 23 bodies on the scene, the Army said.

The communiqué said the Government was determined to prevent "illegal occupations

which cause so much harm to the national economy".

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OVERSEAS

Indian Communists paying price of disastrous alliance after failing to find dynamic alternative

By Richard Wigg

Delhi, Dec 19
India's two undynamic Communist parties, in spite of their obvious shortcomings of the unitary, three main political parties, have been strikingly led to exploit the opportunity of the coming general election offering a wider electorate a new alternative.

Both parties, led by men as old as old as the main parties' leaders, are demonstrating only static thinking and are re-reading their assessment that India's political chessboard and deeply rooted social customs, prevent Marxists from taking short cuts to power.

This was made plain by E. S. Namboodiripad, 70, leader of the Marxist Party of India (CPIM), in his personal political broadcast last night, invited to the "working men's" to vote for the alliance by Mr Charan Singh's Lok Dal (People's Party), though CPIM has until this election persistently attacked the rater Prime Minister.

He only shift in thinking has been from the less powerful Marxist Communist Party of India (CPI), who has decided to jointly with the CPIM, the breaking away from its alliance with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, with whom it fought March, 1977, elections. But

even this move was resisted by the party's old guard and brought about a split.

With Mr Singh's faltering election chances, those who stick closer to the Soviet Union's continuing preference for Mrs Gandhi may yet prove shrewder calculators of the election outcome than Mr Namboodiripad.

The choice of alliance with Mr Singh was the awkward-outcome of Chinese manceuvrings in the CPIM, which is the Janata Government's coalition. Caught between the "orthodox communism" of Mrs Gandhi and the Hindu "communism" of the rump of the Janata Party, the lesser evil, as CPIM's theorists see things, could only be an alliance with Mr Singh's Lok Dal.

The CPIM, which forms the Government of West Bengal, had hoped that the Lok Dal would help it get a foothold in important states such as Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab.

This has worked out disastrously for the CPIM in Uttar Pradesh, where it has only been allowed to field one candidate (compared to Lok Dal's 78 in a total of 85 constituencies) and that one in a constituency reserved to Harijan (formerly called untouchables), where Mrs Gandhi's candidate looks far better placed. There is only one CPIM candidate in the grassroot over the past few years.

Pakistan gets tougher law on defamation

Our Correspondent

nabid Dec 19

Pakistan has introduced a new law governing defamation which provides for punishment of up to five years' imprisonment and a fine for publishing any matter held to be defamatory, even if the statement is found to be true in the public interest. A new law amends one introduced more than 100 years ago which provides exception to statements held to be true in the public interest. The amendments to articles 1 and 500 of the Pakistan Penal Code will enable police to arrest a publisher or editor of objectionable material without a warrant. Newspapers' editors and management organisations in the country had opposed the new law. The council of Pakistani newspaper editors had in interview with the *Ident*, Zia ul-Haq, rejected his intervention. The editor had said that the new law was to protect the responsible citizens from irresponsible journalists. A new law is in addition to comprehensive press and publication laws.

Veiled threat by Peking of intervention in Thailand

Peking, Dec 19—China today again threatened in thinly veiled terms to intervene alongside Thailand against Vietnam which it accused of invading that country.

Mr Han Nianlong, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, told the fifteenth session of the Sino-Vietnamese talks in Peking: "Now that Vietnam is threatening and invading Thailand in its resistance against the threat and invasion", the New China news agency reported.

Mr Han was responding to allegations by his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr Dinh Nho Lien of Sino-Vietnam "military collusion" against Vietnam. Mr Han also accused Vietnam of "menacing the peace and security" of the whole of South East Asia through its "continued armed provocations" on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

He added: "If you persist in this reckless course of action, you will be called to account by history and grave consequences will result."

Despite the deadlock, the Sino-Vietnamese talks, which began in Hanoi and then moved to Peking, will go on next year.

Report December 19 1979

When survivor is ineligible for farm tenancy

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Staff seats at cut price to students just before performances.

OPERA AND BALLET

VENT GARDEN SE 5 310 1056
10pm-11pm credit cards
5000 THE ROYAL OPERA
18TH DEC 1979 7.30pm
ERMAUS, "Amphitrite" available.
ALL THE ROYAL BALLET
Tomas & Bal 7.30 and Sat 4. Wed 8.20
2.00 Cinders, 65 Amphitrite
adult seats from 10 am
day of performance.

JULES Credit cards 240 5038
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
London 7.30, the piano
London 7.30, Juilliard Sat 8.20
Adult seats from 10 am
day of performance.

VAL FESTIVAL HALL 01-928 3769
West Boston Day 8.30 Mat
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LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
spectacular return of *Robaliberty!*

THE NUTCRACKER

OLIVER'S WELLS THEATRE Rochester
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Ronald Butt on the answer to the bleak prospects facing Mrs Thatcher

Patriotism must be the policy now

It must almost go without saying that no Government since the war has inherited quite so dangerous and bleak a prospect as Mrs Thatcher's has. There is, however, a further point that has hardly been taken at all. No other postwar Conservative Government has taken over, as this one has, in circumstances that from the start have virtually ruled out the policies that bring "popularity".

Indeed the election of 1979 brought something like a reversal of the previous pattern in which incoming Tory governments have been able to make the sort of decisions that secure public support, whereas it has usually been Labour governments which, for one reason or another, have been driven immediately to retrenchment, restraint and correction.

The Attlee government, for instance, taking over at the start of postwar reconstruction, was obliged to continue for some time the wartime apparatus of controls, even if it was bureaucratic and stodgy. It maintained them much longer than necessary. But the Conservatives, taking over in 1951, were immediately able to scrap rationing and controls without causing the social and economic crises that Labour had predicted, and so to create a new mood of optimism that led to 13 years of Tory rule.

In contrast the Wilson government of 1964 was in trouble straight away. Arguably it talked itself into a worse crisis than was necessary in its determination to prove that the Tories had left one behind them. Its troubles were further multiplied by its unsuccessful attempts to preserve the exchange rate, and its belief that high public spending could be paid for by grandiose national growth plans and solemn agreements with the unions.

In the end it was driven to pay fares and restraints tighter money and finally devaluation. It was hardly ever out of crisis and never able to create optimism, though Harold Wilson did his best to mask this by an incessant display of political "movement".

The first Wilson government, which

The year now ends with Mrs Thatcher able to offer nothing but toil and sweat with more than a few tears

had seemed to have the right ideas for a new technocratic age, failed largely through its own political faults. Yet to some extent its problems were a legacy from the Macmillan years, when neo-Keynesianism and lax control of public expenditure and money had been used to fund off-budget almost superstitious terror at the slightest rise in the unemployment figures.

It was this same fear that tempted the Heath government, which came in on a surge of optimism and with the benefits of Mr Roy Jenkins's retrenchment, into the overspending which, with the oil crisis, drove it to the incomes policy which brought it down. And the Labour government of 1974 took over in gloom, had little room for manoeuvre, and never enjoyed the people's confidence. Having made its problems worse by the profligacy with which it tried to buy union support, it too was driven to constrain and to an incomes policy that led to its fall last winter.

The year now ends with Mrs Thatcher able to offer nothing but toil and sweat, with more than a few tears thrown in. Her Government must, from the outset, make a virtue of necessity and appeal to the larger interest of the nation, for the sake of its survival, against the destructive self-interest of particular groups. It must appeal to reason against the preference for believing that prosperity grows on trees; it must ask for the support of individual trade unionists against the

tacit assumption of its predecessors that the Conservatives, not being identified as the natural party of the masses, could only take and keep office by offering the "goodies" of instant prosperity and consumer boom.

When retrenchment and restraint were inevitable, it has actually been easier for a Labour Government assumed to be the natural representative of the trade unions and therefore less surprising to implement them. It could even be plausibly argued that the Tories have in practice more often than not been the big spenders.

I do not mean by this to cast the Tories as the villains of the piece, and Labour as the heroes. The improvidence of former Tory administrations has arisen largely from fear of the campaigns of the Labour Party, in conjunction with the unions, when in the irresponsibility of opposition, against more sensible courses.

The year now ends with Mrs Thatcher is to make the most of this mood, she must see that something like equality of sacrifice accompanies rewards for enterprise and work. That means a sacrifice from the company director as well as the worker, from the higher as well as the lower paid. (How many directors, I wonder, cut their own pay when the tax brackets were changed?) The question for 1980 is how well Mrs Thatcher, without compromising her policy of financial and economic reality, can evoke a nation-wide sense of national loyalty. It will not be done solely by the mechanics of money management. In many ways the greatest asset of this Tory Government is that it has come to office in circumstances giving it no alternative than to face the truth itself and ask the people to do the same.

Bernard Levin rushes to the defence of London's Cabbies

I sympathise with the young lady whose father wrote complaining about her unfortunate experience with a London taxi driver (he turned his car of his cab because she couldn't direct him exactly, some way from her home late at night), but I will not hear a word against the London cabbie; not one word.

To be sure, the one the gentleman's daughter picked was a knave by the sound of it, and not even I would deny that in the barrel of London cab-drivers there are a few mouldy ones. The same, however, could be said of many a trade—why, I have even heard talk of journalists who are not quite sixteen annas to the rupee. But the cab-driver—the London one, that is—is to me a hero, to be spoken of in the same tones as those appropriate for El Cid, for Roland, and Oliver, for King Joshua and Queen Boedicea, and he who speaks lightly in my presence of the Fraternity of the Turned-Up Collar is a man whose last hour has come.

Of course, even taxi-drivers are not what they were. The old-timers, whose standards justified every word of even the most extravagant encomium, are slowly disappearing, and many of the younger ones have a far more detached attitude to the world of work, and the world of the London cabbie.

On the other hand, if Mrs Thatcher

is to make the most of this mood,

she must see that something like equality of sacrifice accompanies rewards for enterprise and work. That means a sacrifice from the company director as well as the worker, from the higher as well as the lower paid. (How many directors, I wonder, cut their own pay when the tax brackets were changed?)

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asset of this Tory Government is that it

has come to office in circumstances

giving it no alternative than to face the

truth itself and ask the people to do the

same.

And I speak whereof I know.

It is no use my saying, though

it is true, that if I still had all

the money I have spent on

London taxis in my time I

would be a millionaire, because

I would be a dead millionaire,

the strain, frustration, and

unpleasantness of having to get

about the town by other means

having finished me off long

ago. Which reminds me: once

an equally two-wheeled police

man: they are learning

to drive the swimming-pool at the Alpenhof Hotel,

Munich, and the Muller

and contemplating sterility, and our

dinner, and the cake-

maker's wife, the talk turned

to the harum-scarum life I had

led (I am a reformed character

now, of course) whose women

are concerned, and we tried to

make real estimate of the

amount of money I had spent

on the delightful creatures

which, had I lived as an

anchorite, I would have saved.

Thus, a visit to the opera would

have had certain fixed over-

heads, such as the transport

to it, which would have been

constant, even if I had not

done but the cost of the ticket

and the bus back and forth,

and of dinner afterwards.

And, so on, not, for

forgetting the trinkets. We did

our sums quite seriously,

though we recognized that

exhaustude would be out of the

question, and we deliberately

arrived on the side of under-

statement: All the same, we

arrived at a grand total so

stupendous, so colossal, so gigantic,

so difficult to distinguish

from the National Debt, that

I seriously contemplated giving

up women for ever, and

therefore should reflect on th

number who are just going

home but whose hearts can b

softened by a plea to extend

their working day (try the sam

ple: on a British Leyland empl

oyee and see how far you

get). Likewise, reflect when

you get a sultry one that he

too, is human, and no less lika

to have had a row with his

wife that morning than the res

of mankind. (Better still, tr

meeting his suliness will

extra friendliness on your own

part.)

And if all else fails, just

compete the London cab with

his counterparts in Paris or

New York, and be thankful.

Incidentally, there is a taxi

driver in New York, where

cabbies are obliged by law to

carry an identification-card with

their dashboards, with the

names of big capital cities,

of course, the name of the

driver, Milton Shulman, who is,

of course, the name of the

London dramatic critic.

Before I leave the subject for

today, one last question: why

do many taxi-drivers Jewish?

That, incidentally, is beyond

my knowledge, and the people

who can think of nothing

particularly Jewish about the

profession, I have asked

the question many times, not

least of taxi-drivers themselves,

without receiving a satisfactory

answer. If any reader has a

solution—preferably one which

does not prove that the Jews

are about to take over the world,

if, indeed, they have not al

ready done so—I would be

interested to learn it. Meanwhile, hands off my friend the

London cabby, ringleader,

connoisseur and chum to the weak.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 1979

Oxford loss Cambridge gain

In announcing last week their intention to elect Lord Dacre of Glanton as their next Master, the Fellows of Peterhouse have departed from their usual practice of choosing Cambridge man as head of the college. According to their invitation, Lord Dacre will be ending an association with Oxford which has been unbroken since he went up to Christ Church as an undergraduate in the early 1930s.

Yet this particular marriage of light and dark blue is likely to be a happy one. Lord Dacre, who is probably still better known as Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper rather than by the title he took from his fifteenth-century ancestors when he was ennobled in the last Birthday Honours, is both academically and politically suited to the college of which he will take over the headship next year.

Peterhouse has an extremely

strong tradition in Lord Dacre's own subject of history, although one of its present historians, Professor Trevor-Roper, may be the strongest subject in the college. One of its most distinguished previous Masters was the late Herbert Butterfield, author of the still standard



Lord Dacre (Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper): a departure

work on the Whig interpretation of history.

In more recent years, thanks largely to the work of Maurice Cowling, the college has developed its own revisionist school of history which has rigorously reassessed the importance of high politics and intellectual movements against the fashionable concentration on the aristocrats and the masses.

Politically, the college has a deep hostility to the ideas of the trendy Left. Its Fellows include Dr Edward Norman and

Dr David Watkin who have lambasted liberal and social democratic trends in the Church and in architecture with the same vigour that Mr Cowling has shown in attacking the theories of left-wing historians.

Lord Dacre may not find himself totally in accord with Peterhouse's very distinctive brand of conservatism. His himself is a bit of a hybrid, a school whose conservative and unionist sympathies were seen to best effect in his devastating attacks in *The Times* three years ago on the whole principle of devolution to Scotland and Wales.

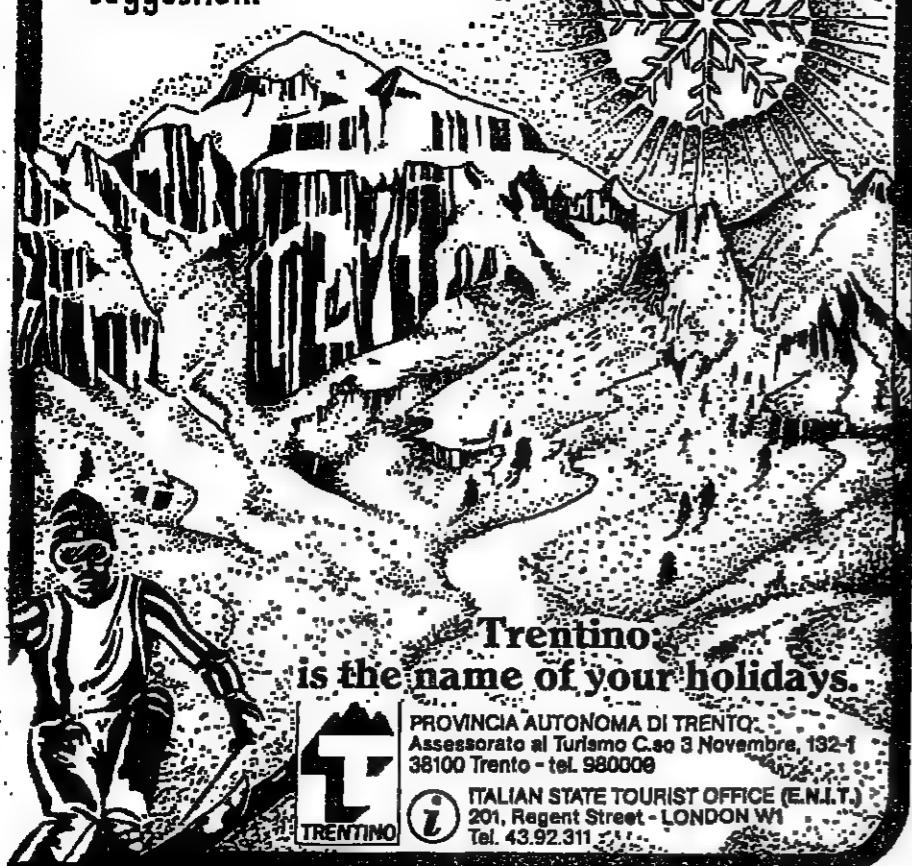
An ex-Fellow of Peterhouse who has now moved on to consider academic eminence elsewhere warns that the new Master will find his old-fashioned High Toryism confronted with a lot of lower-middle class social climbers who are trying to look like

them. He also predicts that the

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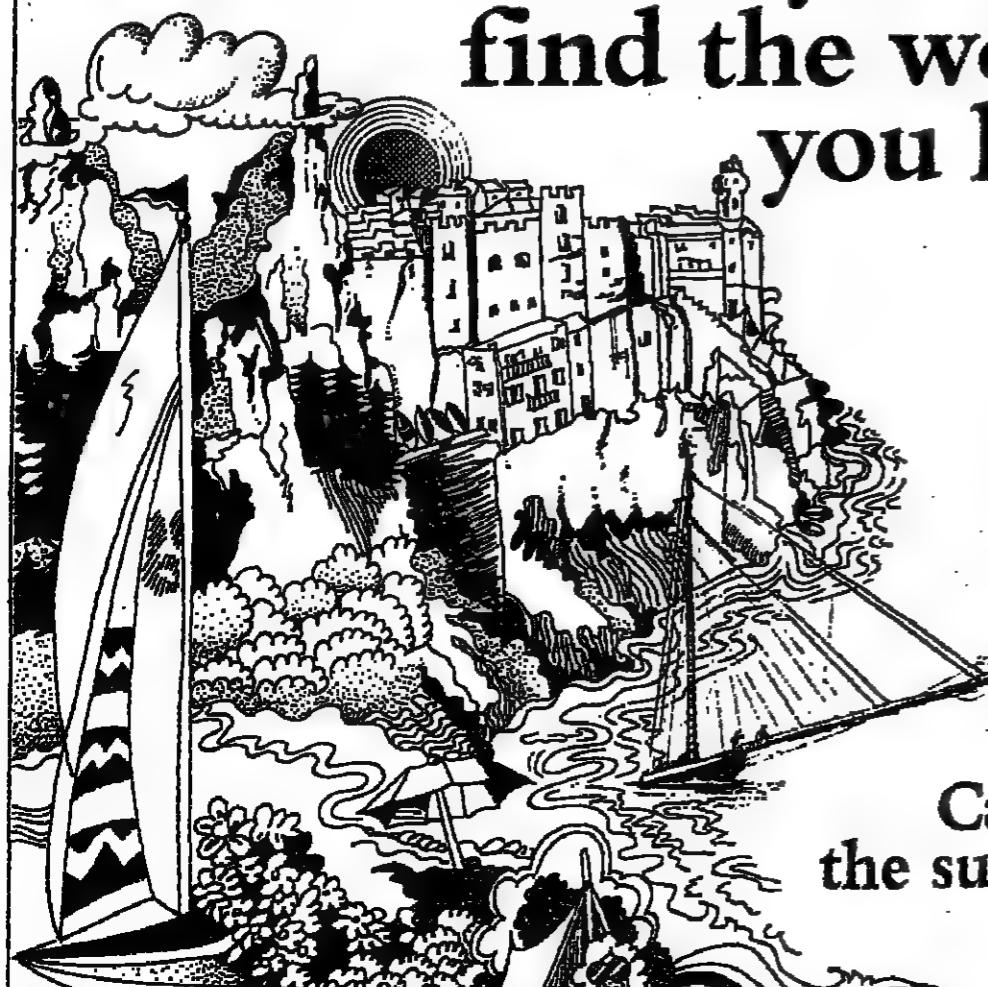
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Robin Mead describes the pleasures of motoring on autostrada and toll-free road

Surviving the baptism by rush hour

A nervous friend once told me that, on her way to work in Fleet Street every day, her car sometimes got swept over Westminster Bridge when she really wanted to turn left along the Embankment. It was a pretty picture she drew and given the tidal wave of traffic between Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge, not as unlikely an event as it might sound.

I thought of that friend a few weeks later. A French Railways car/sleeper had deposited my car and me in the centre of Milan at 8 am and, after a night of being whisked effortlessly across Europe, I found myself confronted with an introduction to Italian roads that might be termed a baptism by rush-hour.

That was some years ago, but Italian traffic habits have not changed. In the days of mushroom of embryonic Fonzies competing vigorously for the somewhat limited space in the crowded streets; while on the roomier motorways, where traffic travels faster than anywhere else in Europe, a sports car roaring past you on the inside lane is an illegal, but nevertheless common occurrence.

In northern Italy, all motorways seem to lead to Rome. From there, the most important road is the Autostrada del Sol, which slices its way dramatically through the mountains to Florence, Rome, Naples and points south. Just to remind

On that first visit in Italy you will which direction you are travelling, road signs and ubiquitous jewelry whose Gordon Piers service

are placed intermittently along the road bearing the laconic legend "Sud".

One does not miss the Autostrada del Sol because it is a picturesque road, and before the motorists going there cause it does speed you up for the first 500m. But it is highly competitive, and will almost certainly do the unexpected, and you may survive.

The autostrade are a delight, even if Italians do treat them as their own private race tracks. For a long time there was no speed limit on the autostrade, and outside Italy it is widely thought that this is still the case. But the owners of Jaguar S-types should note that even Italy now has a nationwide upper speed limit of between 90kph and 140kph, depending upon the engine capacity of the car.

Not that people take much notice of these restrictions, the Italian Tourist Office in London confessed. In southern Italy, all motorways seem to lead to Rome. From there, the most important road is the Autostrada del Sol, which slices its way dramatically through the mountains to Florence, Rome, Naples and points south. Just to remind

On that first visit in Italy you will which direction you are travelling, road signs and ubiquitous jewelry whose Gordon Piers service

is starting at £12.50 (for 28 External City and do your shopping, is a good idea

if you have a break-

down or an accident on the

motorway.

Consequently, the RAC before

leaving Britain, make

sure that anyone is hard to

motoring holidays.

Even formalities are

not complicated.

There is a short

distance from the

motorway to

the coast, avoiding the

motorway.

So, as soon as you have

gained sufficient confidence

it is worth taking to the toll-free roads which are often

particularly in the eastern

coast—parallel the routes of

the motorways. Thus,

you will hit the towns, and at

night you will have to run a £1.37 a gallon for some

gauntlet of uncaring traffic

where drivers will not be

dipped; even if your headlights

are broken service stations

are few and far between.

So, the northern Italy is

hard to find somewhere

particularly in the

Lakes area. Accommodation

is overpriced, and

bookings are available where

possible.

The Italian automobilists

club, ACT, currently has

information that

they have

set up a toll-free road

from the north.

As far as the southern

part of Italy is concerned,

there is a lack of

information.

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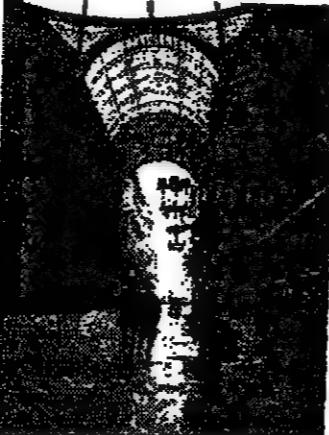
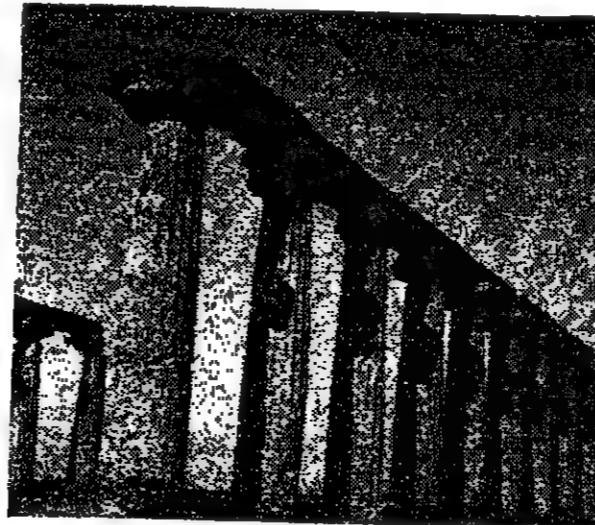
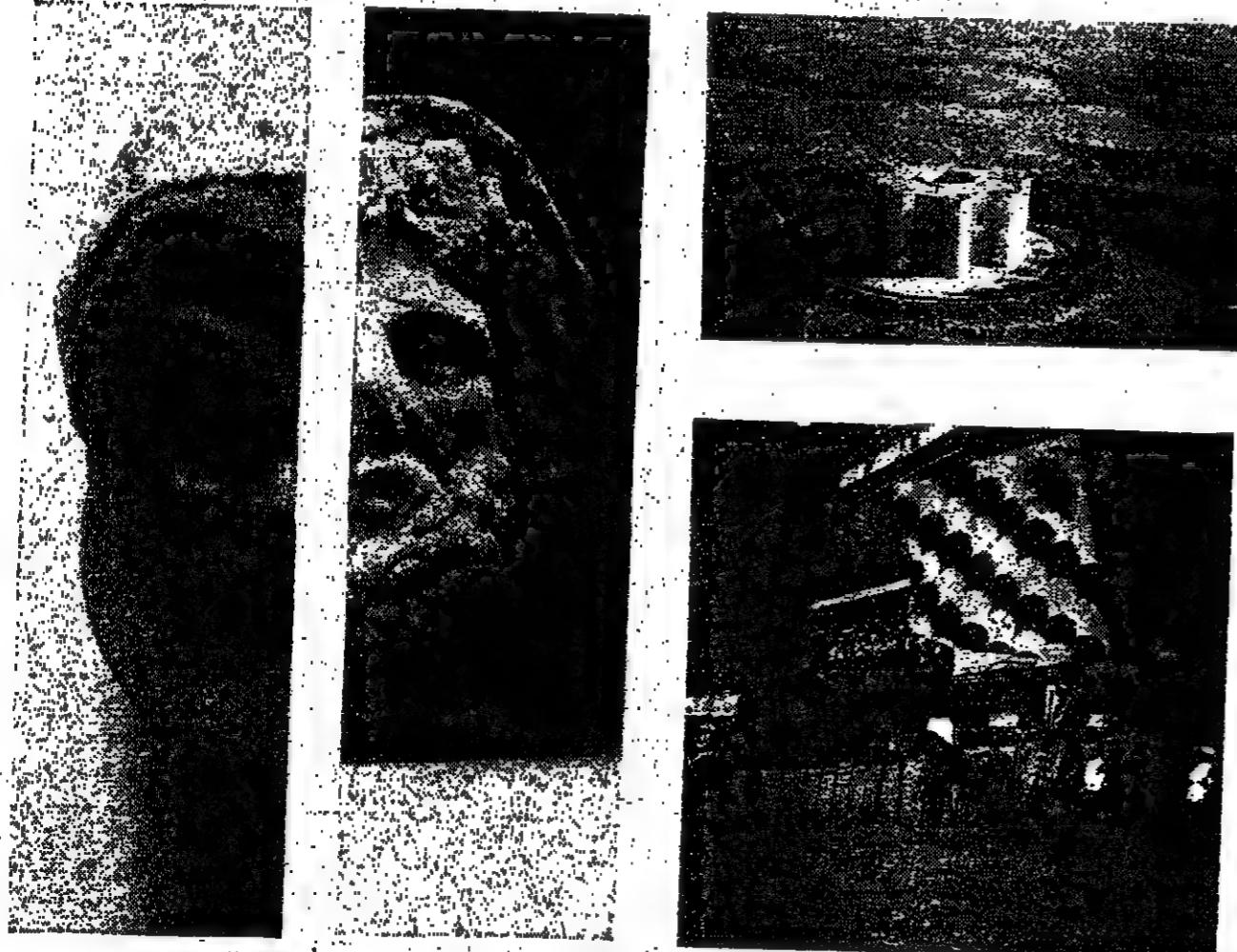
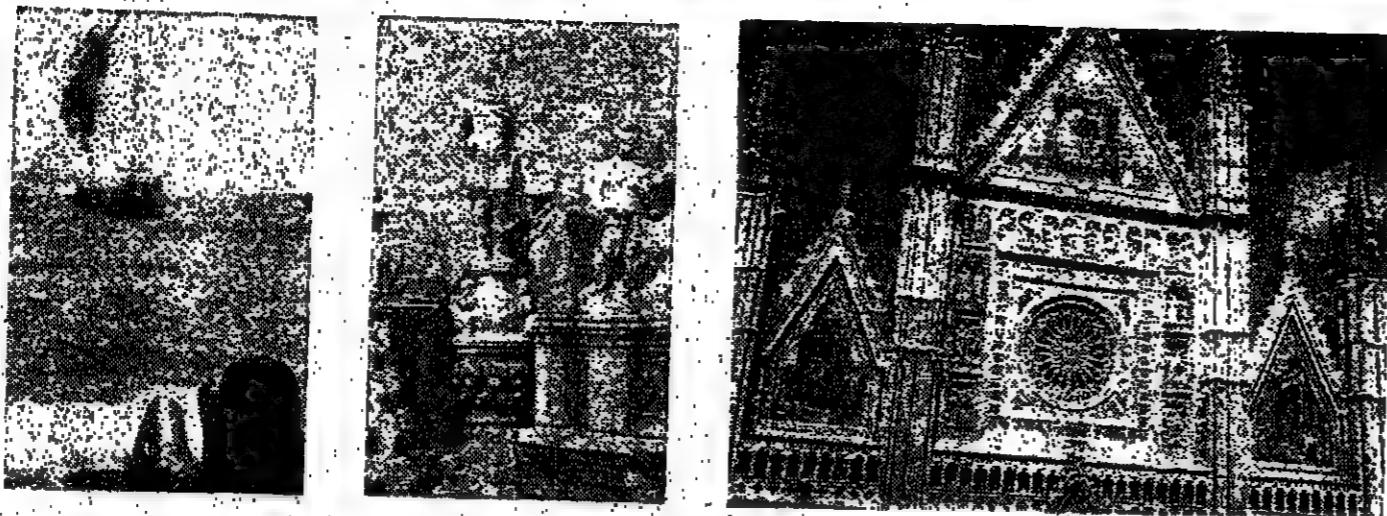
overpriced, and

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HOLIDAYS IN ITALY

Edward Townsend reports on the growth of an infant ski industry

Rising cost of the swift descent of mountains

Over the past six years an increasing and unremitting flow of British skiers, fans as well as novices, have discovered at least the financial advantages of a winter sports holiday in Italy.

Tour operators have been depositing growing numbers of them on the Italian slopes of the Alps, on the Dolomites and the Apennines, and even in the mountain resorts of Sicily, Sardinia and Elba. Food, wine and, in some cases, accommodation prices remain relatively cheap there, and the local people show no resentment at being invaded.

Yet, in spite of Italy's popularity, all is not well in the country's ski holiday industry. Observers in Britain have given warnings that it could slip from high growth to stagnation unless standards are improved and value maintained.

Accommodation prices at some of the popular ski resorts are now similar

According to the Italians, to those at the more fashionable and traditional French and Swiss ski lodges. Miss Erna Low, whose British tour company specializes in ski holidays, said: "Rates in the larger and more popular resorts and first-class hotels have risen steeply, especially in the peak season, and the danger is that if this trend continues Italy may price itself out of the market. The attraction for British skiers may be lost".

It is only in recent years that tour operators have discovered Italy and much of the skiing industry is in its infancy. Many resorts remain to be exploited to cater for large numbers of holiday-makers and some of the developed areas are lacking amenities which are taken for granted in Switzerland or Austria.

There are 300 ski resorts in Italy, including those on

the islands, of which about half are fully established. The remainder are at various stages of development.

The Italians have become better organized as demand for their ski resorts has increased. Ski passes, allowing the dedicated sportsman to make use of different ski lifts with the same ticket, are becoming more widespread. The Dolomiti Super Skipass, for example, allows the use of 350 lifts which serve about 600 km of pistes.

The Italian State Tourist Office (Ente) in London lists 31 British tour operators offering Italian ski holidays and, for the more independently minded skier, can give details of the so-called "white weeks".

These are offered by various Italian local authorities and take the form of special packages, valid from the end of November until

April, which include accommodation, ski lessons and ski passes. Prices start from as low as £55 for one person for a week's full board.

Pistes are not sufficiently well cared for, rescue services are lacking in some resorts, and roads are not always cleared quickly enough after severe snowfalls.

Miss Low said: "Motorists find it disturbing that roads are not definitely closed as in other countries if there is avalanche danger. It is left to the discretion of drivers whether or not to brave a road."

Other complaints include unreliable and infrequent ski bus transport, and kindergarten schools and nurseries not being as well developed as in the French resorts. Fire inspection in hotels and ski schools, for which the Italians have come in for criticism in the past, is now much more stringent.

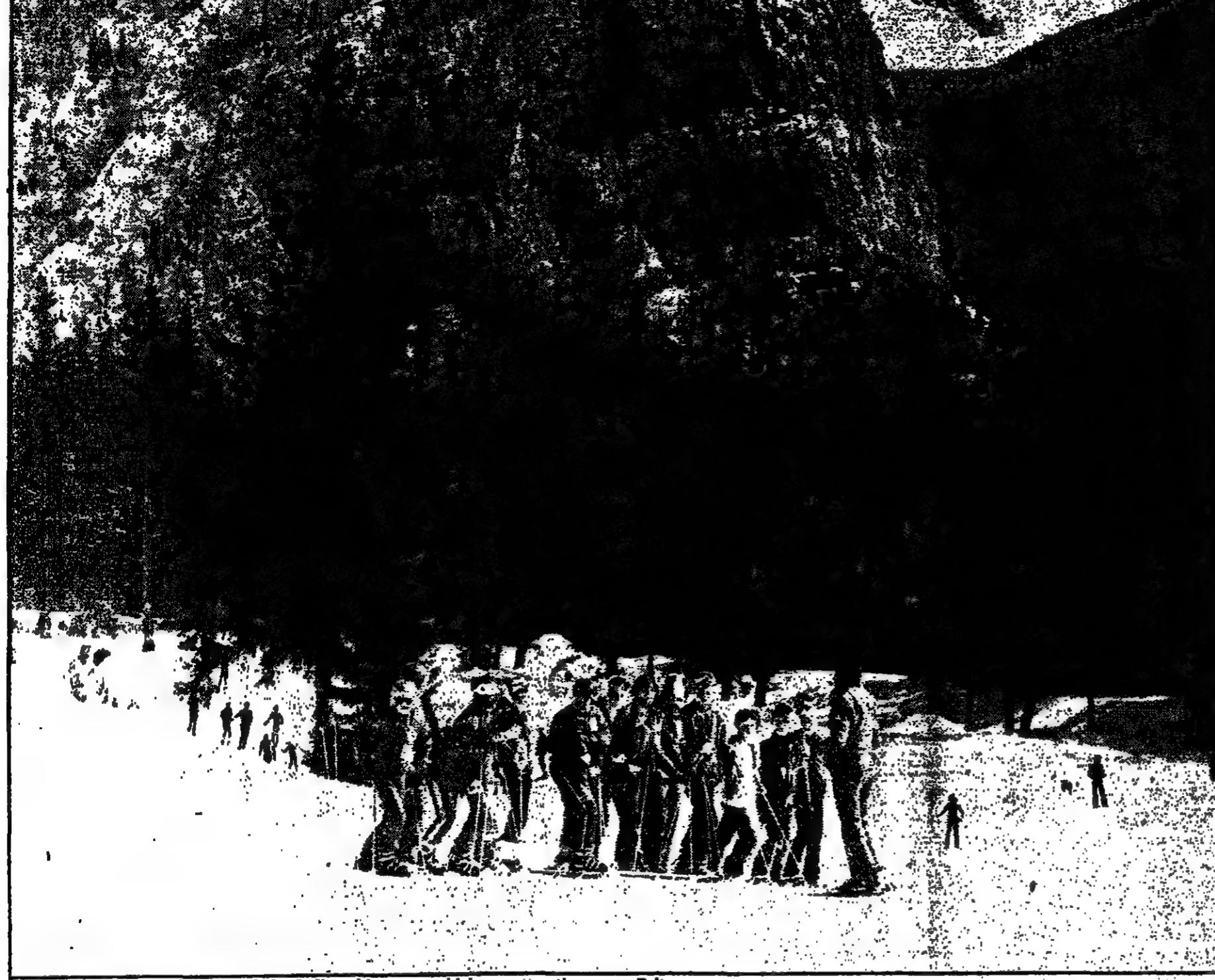
Many of the smaller resorts lack equipment for hire, particularly boots for large groups.

The attractions of a skiing holiday in Italy are many. Operators such as Miss Low are keen to emphasize that wine, coffee, orange juice and ice cream are far cheaper than elsewhere and the friendliness and good food dispensed throughout Italy surpass those offered by its northern neighbours.

Organizers of school ski parties have found that Italian instructors are more relaxed when coping with children than the stricter and more regimental Austrian and Swiss teachers.

But there are disadvantages. The teaching in some Italian ski schools is said to be erratic and insufficient English-speaking instructors are available.

Folgarida in the Trentino, one of the Italian ski resorts which are attracting many Britons.



Folgarida in the Trentino, one of the Italian ski resorts which are attracting many Britons.

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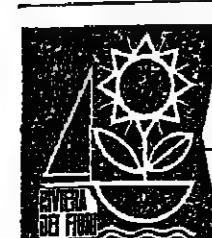


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More beds must be filled

continued from page 1
to reach 485,000 last year. Another material factor is that while most foreigners prefer hotels, the number has been increasing of those, particularly from northern Europe, who go to holiday camps, tourist villages, youth hostels and private accommodation.

Figures from the Government Statistics Office for bed occupancies by foreigners in 1978 show the preponderance of the German-speaking world. First came West Germans with 37,892,722, then in the view of many could

benefit from an overhaul, to meet the needs of a sector which has undergone enormous changes in the past 20 to 30 years.

With this in mind a group of Christian Democrat deputies has tabled two Bills in Parliament, one for the reform of Ente and the other, of 22 articles, for a framework law for the tourist and hotel industry.

One of the deputies, Signor Nicola Sanese, said the former had been designed to make Ente a really effective weapon for sales promotion on foreign markets in line with what the tourist industry had to offer.

The framework law would make possible the formulation of a national plan for tourism, through the establishment of a coordinating committee composed of seven ministers, together with the heads of the regional governments. There would also be a 23-strong technical-conservative committee composed of experts and representatives from trade unions, professional bodies and tourist operators.

Furthermore, Signor Sanese said, a revolving fund of 300,000 lire (£17,000) would be set up over three years at the Treasury Ministry for urgent interventions in different regions.

The Government has also made known that it is drafting legislation of its own on these subjects.

These proposals have still to be debated in Parliament and may be modified substantially before becoming law at some still distant date. The hope of the private sector is that, while effective government support is welcome, the politicians will not set up another bureaucratic bandwagon such as already exists in other sectors of national life where the state appears to play a role.

John Earle

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or by Azienda di Soggiorno di Alpinia, Albisola,
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John Higgins on musical delights

Spoletos leads to peak of festival season

On the doggerel dogmatism of the fairies, rosemary menion gives in Spoleto.

These folk festivals are not fairly modest in scope, nor a word to be applied to Verona, which stages opera and comedy and, unusually, one ballet from antiquity through August. Everywhere in Verona is enormous, from the size of the open-air arena, through the audience arcana, on a popular night.

Miss Low said: "Motorists find it disturbing that roads are now definitely closed as in other countries if there is avalanche danger. It is left to the discretion of drivers whether or not to brave a road."

Other complaints include unreliable and infrequent ski bus transport, and kindergarten schools and nurseries not being as well developed as in the French resorts.

Fire inspection in hotels and ski schools, for which the Italians have come in for criticism in the past, is now much more stringent.

Few towns in Europe can boast a better record for longer open to the general public, with the exception of Verona, which maintains certain tranquillity among the thick-knuckled crowds in the town.

Few towns in Europe can match the Maggio Musicale that the case may be.

The rest of the land has been following on swiftly since 10 years ago, would be expected to find Plácido Domingo singing in Macerata? But where he was last July as Cavavosco in Tosca? And where is Macerata, even practised Italian hands might say, 50 kilometres southwest of Ancona? Is the singer and the July festival at Arezzo, Sestrières, up for its sixteenth season next month?

So no, down and down places. Yet I feel that summer is on its way once Florence's Maggio Musicale has begun. Pedants point out that Florence's festival is a misnomer and that at least half of its performances take place in June rather than May. But it does not take a Cambridge to reply that the majority of May balls happen to be June functions also; May is far too unreliable a month in East Anglia for walking hand in hand by the banks of the Arno, though.

The Arno, though, is a different matter. The Maggio is acute enough to open before Florence has become too hot and choked with summer bases. The air is fresh above the city, still a spring freshness and lunch in the hills is an ideal prelude to a night at the opera. The Teatro La Fenice in Maciano is the recommended restaurant, although it is as well to have a smattering of Italian—the foreigner rarely bothers with a menu.

Under the direction of Signor Massimo Boginacino, who worked previously at both La Scala and the Rome Opera, the Maggio Musicale has become much more adventurous. This summer it embarked on a Ring cycle conducted by Zubin Mehta, which will be taken a stage further next year. The Teatro Comunale is the focal point of the Maggio, as is scarcely one of Italy's most beautiful houses but it has the good fortune to be both central and well equipped. The Villa Medici and the Kraft, two of Florence's most comfortable hotels, are within a few minutes walk.

Probably the easiest way of visiting Florence in the early summer is by Fly-Drive to Pisa. The Ligurian Coast tends to have its winter shutters still up until the middle of May, so those considering a few days to be seen before visiting the Maggio should drive south.

Pisa rather than the Toscana, not far from the Tyrrhenian coast, has a few surprises, including an antique shop and, has one restaurant which is outstandingly good and outrageously cheap, Da Flavia. Once in Florence, remember that one early morning a week is devoted to street washing by area and that cars parked in the streets are impounded: tend to drive them up to the pavement.

After Florence comes Spoleto, where Gian Carlo Menotti has resigned from his villa in the centre of town these many years. Spoleto is compact and intense, with something of the atmosphere of an Aldburgh or a Weston. For two or three weeks in the year the bulk of the population is concentrated in the middle of May, so those considering a few days to be seen before visiting the Maggio should drive south.

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After Florence comes Spoleto, where Gian Carlo Menotti has resigned

ISLAND PATTERNS

Brooding beauty with a menacing quiet

My first visit to Sicily about 16 years ago changed my whole approach to holidays and after more than 30 trips since, then, its attractions have not diminished: there has always been something new and surprising to increase my affection.

Yet it is not an easy place to know well. Sicilians are not like the Italians further north with their charm and easy friendliness. They are private people often taciturn with interest in, and loyalty to, their families overwhelming all other considerations.

After 16 years, I know that I have some true friends among them and that I will have them all my life.

Sicily, too, has not yet developed its tourist resorts in the same way as the north of the country. Sadly, however, mass tourism is now approaching, but it is still possible to enjoy a slower pace of life and quiet spots away from the developing resorts. Some of these are so isolated that they are likely to retain their charm for many years.

But, if resorts are what the tourist requires, Tasmania commercialized perhaps, but nothing can destroy its splendid setting and the view of Etna—Mondello, a long-established resort outside Palermo. Cefalù, an old town grouped around a remarkable rock structure, and many others have plenty to offer the package holiday maker.

If it is archaeology which is your interest, there is a wealth of ruins. There is little anywhere which surpasses the majesty and splendour of Agrigento, the solation of the Doric temple of Segesta, the remains of the ancient city of Selinunte, the Greek theatres of

Taormina, Segesta, and Siracusa.

Civilization in Sicily did not end with the Greeks. The splendid Norman Cathedral of Monreale is just a bus ride from Palermo. The wonderfully preserved baroque city of Noto on the coast between Agrigento and Siracusa, is well worth a visit.

All the important towns have an array of interesting churches and cathedrals, the simplicity of the cathedral at Siracusa being my favourite.

At this, and I have not mentioned the island's interior, with its brooding beauty and almost menacing quiet, No one should miss the mosaic of the Villa Carlotta, close to Plaza Amerique, nor the enchanting little hill towns like Erice.

After many visits, it is the contrasts so close together which delight me most. To climb to the crater of Etna in the summer months brings a respite from the heat of the plains, as well as a real lesson in volcanic activity. With its peak over 10,000ft Etna has in recent years become a charming and not over-crowded winter skiing resort.

Down on the coast it is still possible to swim in clear water, so important in the lives of farming and fishing people. Best of all perhaps, in the contrast to the heights of Etna are the depths of the sea with the delights of snorkelling or skin-diving.

Sicily itself is an island, but few of its special delights is it in its own offshore islands. I know the Aeolian Islands to the north-east of Sicily best. There are seven islands in the archipelago. Include Stromboli, world-famous for its

erupting volcano, which erupts dutifully every day; one of the island prisons, so the sparks of lava flying into the sky at night compare favourably to house less dangerous criminals. The prisoners live free on the island group, however, is Lipari, an with an allowance for food old-established community and often more able. It is daring back to neolithic times. Today there is a thriving community surrounding the ancient acropolis and medieval city. Lipari is developing fast and has several new hotels with all modern conveniences. An early visit is advised; unless care is taken the unique attractions of the island in its wonderful walks, swimming in clear blue sea and simple pleasures may be lost.

The remaining islands include Vulcano, mythical home of the god Vulcan, today the home of a holiday village with lively social and night life during the months of July and August. Outside these months the island is quiet and a treasure for the geologist with its volcanic activity, including mud baths, hot bubbling springs, smoking volcanoes. In Salina, Filicudi and Panarea there is little for the holidaymaker to do except to swim, sunbathe and laze in beautiful sunbaths and laze in beautiful sunbaths and sunbathe with amiable companions.

This leaves the tiny island of Alicudi, remote from the others and with a permanent population of about 50 people. There is a small pensione and accommodation is available in some private homes. There are few advanced holiday activities, but the swimming is wonderful. Snorkelling and skin-diving are sheer pleasure. The fish drift through the water like millions of leaves. The variety is enormous; it is a new world.

Margaret Allen

The picturesque old harbour at Cefalù, Sicily.

In a bandit's footsteps

That's where they make dom fighter, a separatist leader.

"Most people say he was shot dead in 1950, after seven years' spent evading troops and police. All the circumstances were mysterious."

The same bright day, Alcamo's chief of police is dead on a busy street in the capital. For real, it is a grim reminder for those who see in the Mafia a curse.

Still, the show must go on: that evening the guide was making names for a trip into the mountains to meet the local "godfather".

There will be music, unlimited wine and your photograph taken alongside him who, it is claimed, is bordered. Children who had made the trip the previous week said it was a big disappointment. The godfather is old, garrulous and nothing like Marion Brando hawking gobstoppers.

Instead, we decided to visit the stamping grounds of Sicily's hero, Salvatore Giuliano, sometimes referred to as the Robin Hood of Italy. In fact, he was different things to different people—cold-blooded murderer, an up-and-out bandit, a free-

law-and-order and a claimed relationship with the village's favourite son.

Reminders of Giuliano are everywhere, here a cousin, there a shrine. On the left is a bar run by his family, on the right the house where he lived. His photograph—of a handsome, defiant man with thumbs hooked over sunglasses—is seen in picture postcards or framed on bar walls.

During our visit we discovered that his closest relatives do not believe Giuliano is dead, despite photographs of his dead body spread-eagled across a courtyard. The guide says he recently met someone who knew that Giuliano was in the United States.

The landscape must be little changed. It is a barren, rocky place with little vegetation but the prickly pear and spiny sisal. Montelepre has sprawled, its houses resembling a lorryload of boxes tipped down a hillside. It is neither a prosperous nor a welcoming place. Tourists are soon recognized and coolly regarded in the narrow maze of streets. It is a close community, united in many things, including a low opinion of the forces of

Rich gardens where springs relief

Isla d'Ischia has a beauty all its own. Its precipitous mountain sides and ancient craters are clothed with grape vines, groves of chestnut, olive and oak trees. From the mountains the sea views are ever-changing, violet, crimson, powder blue. Spring follows early each winter, bringing the golden drifts and the scene of mimosa and the paler colours of the fruit blossoms. Days of lovely sunshine alternate with dramatic storms.

Then in the washed air wonderful views emerge of the snow-capped Apennines encircling the horizon of the Bay of Naples. There, too, many wild flowers abound—violet, purple cyclamen and the golden grecia, or broom, carpeting the hillsides before the full flowering of summer bursts on the island.

This beautiful Isla Verde, as it is known locally by virtue of its varied vegetation, was called by the ancient Greeks Pithecus, and by the Romans Aenaria. Then, as now, Ischia was a centre for the production of ceramics and of light wines. It remains a lovely holiday area, where tourism prospers beside the indigenous agricultural life of the island.

Porto d'Ischia lies 26 km to the south-east of the mainland with the dominant presence of Vesuvius. The charming harbour can be reached by a regular hydrofoil service in 45 minutes, or by car ferry in an hour and a half. It is usually busy with large and small private craft and is surrounded by terraced green hills. It is within easy reach of Capri and other lovely islands of the Campania region.

There are natural hot and cool springs all over the island, with properties which have given relief from aches and pains, or just relax from ancient times. Many are now enclosed in quiet landscaped gardens, where one can "take the waters" at varying temperatures. Swimming in the cool, clean seas around the island, one sometimes feels the gush of a warm spring from the sea bed.

There are luminous hotels with private beaches, tennis courts and thermal swimming pools. Several hotels have resident medical facilities, and all are set in flowering gardens. Or there are more modest hotels, pensioni and charming apartments to be rented in private villas, seasonally or for longer periods.

At all seasons the Ischian contadini or landowner farmers tend their vineyards, orchards and vegetable gardens with the help of their

children. In September, 1978, four outstanding concerts—"I Concerti dell'Isla Verde"—were presented free by distinguished groups of musicians under the auspices of the regional and local tourist authorities.

Surely none can have been given in a more beautiful setting than that of the picturesque remains of the cathedral on the Castello Aragonese, in the moonlight of a perfect evening, in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the immortal Antonio Vivaldi.

At Lacco Ameno, also on the north coast of Ischia, archaeologists can easily find evidence of the Greek and Roman occupations of what was a thriving commercial colony. Beneath the basilica of the church of Santa Maria della Restaurazione an ancient necropolis has been excavated on several levels.

Barbara Stebbins



Mass tourism defies the kidnappers

Just over 15 years ago the top right-hand corner of Sardinia was known as the Gallura coast. It was deserted and almost inaccessible from inland. The only way to this craggy coastline and the wonders of the Maddalena archipelago was from the sea.

It was for this reason that some rich people made it their second home.

Reminders of Giuliano are everywhere, here a cousin, there a shrine. On the left is a bar run by his family, on the right the house where he lived. His photograph—of a handsome, defiant man with thumbs hooked over sunglasses—is seen in picture postcards or framed on bar walls.

During our visit we discovered that his closest relatives do not believe Giuliano is dead, despite photographs of his dead body spread-eagled across a courtyard.

The guide says he recently met someone who knew that Giuliano was in the United States.

It is unlikely, but if Giuliano is dead who killed him? Fellow bandits, the police or the Mafia? Or a combination of any two or three?

In a land where people are still numbered for their role in film portraits of Giuliano's life, there is understandably little desire to raise over the past.

John Huxley

It cannot be denied that the recent spate of kidnappings has had a marked effect on the island's tourist industry. But this is only as far as the wealthy section of the market is concerned, particularly those that have their own villas or apartments.

Reports suggest that the mass tourism section of the industry is continuing to grow. The Costa Smeralda is still accessible to the average traveller, and although it is not as cheap as Spain it has many types of accommodation to offer the less affluent.

Starting near the most expensive there is the magnificent Hotel Romazzini near Porto Cervo, owned by the Costa Smeralda.

Overlooking the marina at

Porto Cervo is the Hotel Luce de la Mungagna which, too, is set in landscaped gardens.

It is popular with British tourists. Prices there start from £203 for bed and breakfast for seven nights to £519 for full board for 14 nights.

This is only a sample of the package deals offered by

the Costa Smeralda.

out over sunny terraces, lush green lawns and flower garde

in Costa Smeralda holidays.

At the other end of the price scale, for the travelling student, there is a youth hostel, down by the harbour in Olbia, the main town communicating with

the Costa. Called the Osteria Pausania, it is on the Via Genova, and accommodation for one night costs about £1.80.

For motorists there is one of the few motels on the island at Baia Sardinia, the Motel Tui-Tui, open only in the summer season. Cars can be hired on the island and a fly-drive holiday is ideally suited to the Costa: many of the roads have only recently been built and link all the main inlets.

Also available is an American-style 'Camper Car' holi

day, (four-berth Fiat mobile campers). Arranged through Magic of Sardinia and British Caledonian the prices for this good value holiday, depending on season, start at £136 (seven days) and go up to £244 (14 days). The rates are per person and are subject to the size of the party.

The most popular car to hire is the Fiat 127. Prices per person for out of these, including a British Caledonian return flight from Gatwick, range from £131 for seven days to £204 for 14 days in the high season.

Overlooking the marina at Porto Cervo is the Hotel Luce de la Mungagna which, too, is set in landscaped gardens. It is popular with British tourists.

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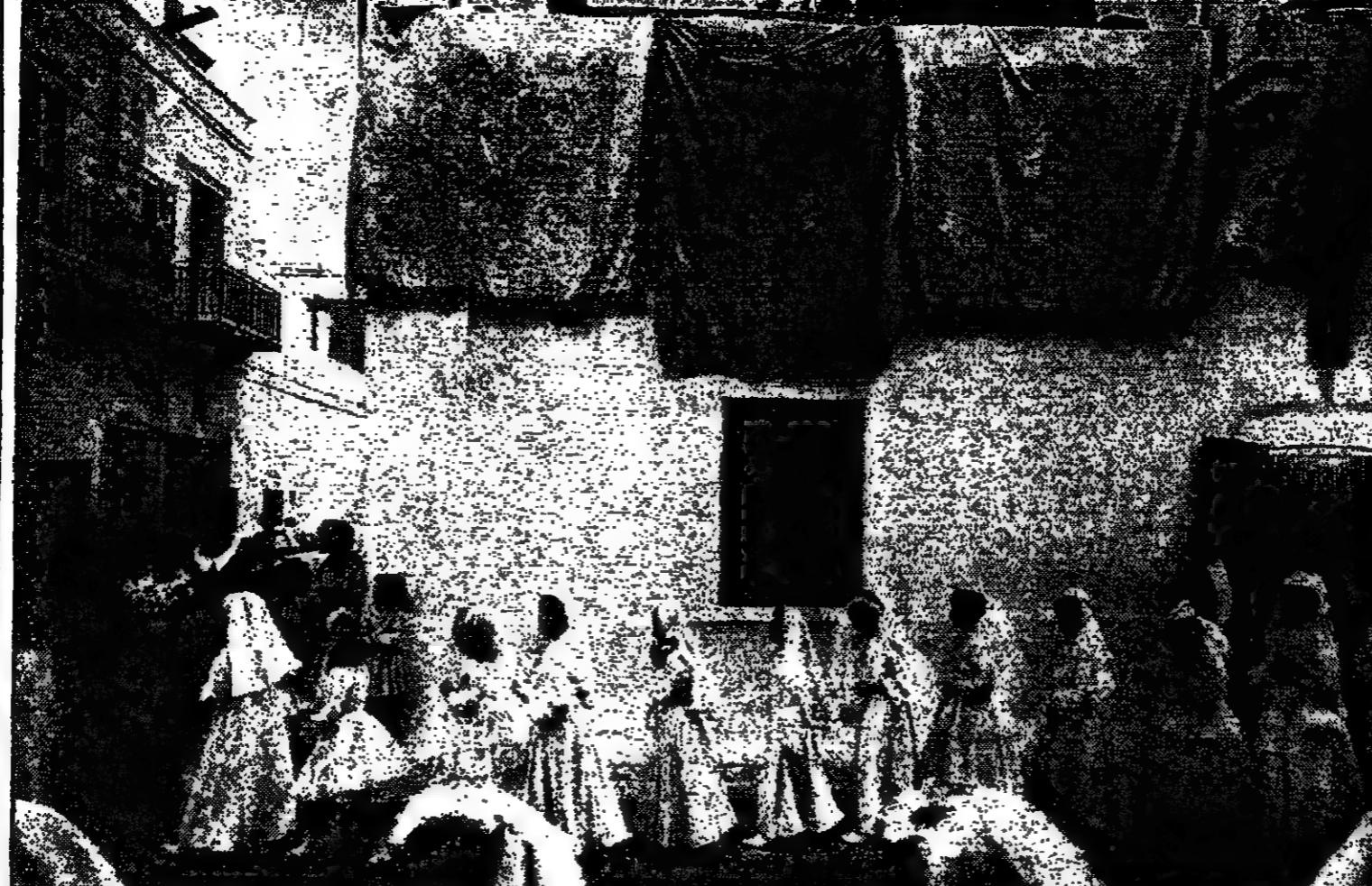
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HOLIDAYS IN ITALY



Young girls in Calabria on the way to their first Communion.

Cars mar the famous five

The five towns of the Cinque Terre, perched on the coast and fortified in medieval times against the Moors, have managed until recently to repel the invading motorist.

The traveler returns to first visited the Cinque earlier and more difficult Terre only a small portion of time, when the only access of the road was built and to Riomaggiore, Manarola, Vernazza and the way to reach the five towns Monterosso was by car, was by the winding Strada del Bracco roads leading down from the where brigands lay in wait Strada del Bracco.

Most of the hotels and pensioni which serve the water or along the cliff paths which meander down of the many kilo metres between Monterosso and Vernazza and around the cove once an anchorage for Roman cargo vessels, to those who want to visit the Cinque Terre from the Gulf of La Spezia, there are frequent motor boats from April to September.

If you do as we did, follow the top and Vernazza, and Riomaggiore down of the many kilo metres between Monterosso and Vernazza and around the cove once an anchorage for Roman cargo vessels, to those who want to visit the Cinque Terre from the Gulf of La Spezia, there are frequent motor boats from April to September.

In the Cinque Terre, along the Ligurian coast generally, there are typical local dishes such as tortelli stuffed with cheese and fegato, a pie made of dough with black olives; anchovies in Monterosso and Vernazza style, stuffed mussels and zuppa di pesce (fish soup).

It pays to drink the local wines—they seem to taste even better on the spot. These wines have been known since ancient times and include bianco nero and sciachetrà from the Cinque Terre vineyards and dry wine from Levanto, Bonassola and Framura.

We arrived worn out and hungry, having scampered only a few apricots on the way, and climbed steep cobble streets of Corniglia to the inn, inhaling the cooking and hanging out the washing that doorway to the street. We could imagine nothing had greatly changed.

To be more realistic, it has to admit that though the picturesque houses, ancient parish churches and medieval towers at Monterosso are unshaded, there is an efficient railway linking the five lands to Rome and Genoa.

And much more recently a road has been built to link Monterosso and Vernazza. From the Riomaggiore end a road now extends to Manarola and Corniglia and eventually the two roads will join the five lands to civilization and the motor car.

But a bonus for those who visit the secret of the Cinque Terre is their proximity to so many other places of outstanding interest.

Round the corner of the Golfo dei Poeti (Gulf of Poets), which takes its name from the inspiration it has given to writers and poets (including Byron).

Sheltered in the inlet is La Spezia, which was chosen by Napoleon as a naval base.

Rare models of ships in the technical naval museum there chart the progress and development made from ancient times. Next to Porto Venere, one finds a magnificent fortified hamlet with towers, like castles, forming a front against attack from the sea.

Calabria, in all its variety from camping to luxury villas, is waiting to be explored. The wonder is that it has escaped exploitation. One hopes but rather doubts that these will eventually be landscaped to blend in better with the character of their surroundings. The sleek, modern bodies lie in serried ranks, glaring colours under the hot sun, a minority in metal of the red oil-covered bodies of the tourists on the beaches.

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For one has the sneaking feeling that the residents of the five towns like to see the tourist hordes, rise to a peak on which the church of San Pietro stands. It from lies power, the people who live there appreciate a quick drama formed by the islands store at La Spezia.

Fifteen years ago when I

Diana Patt

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Specialtours (2 Chester Row, SW1) is arranging a tour of Apulia on October 17, guided by the art historian Comessa Claudio Gnoli. The programme includes visits to the Swabian castles at Oria and Castel del Monte, the cathedrals of Troia, Trani and Bitonto and the archaeological museum at Taranto. The cost is about £460.

Joyce Rackham

Regions Autonome della Sardegna. Assessorato al Turismo.

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A moving scene of culture

fair Verona, where we saw G. E. Tiepolo's frescoes), it was the gate to so much else. In this corner: Cividale del Friuli, core of Longobardian art, and Aquileia.

Cividale (the birthplace of the actress Ristori, whose statue is there) one remembers of the eighth-century Tempietto, with its extraordinary stucco lacework. Today it is part of an Ursuline convent approached by a rising path among a perpetual rustle of water.

It was the official title tour limited to about 100. Closely-knit; under guidance of Contessa Ione Giroli (who carried head the art history continent) and Mrs Skene, we had nothing to do but travel, (by boat, look, listen, and for ourselves—here an unbroken brocade of people in a white wine from a own vineyard—while wed as far north-east as sea and south as no).

Our first three inquisitive days watching us market in the Piazza Erbe; Dante aloft in aza del Signori; inevitable thoughts of those brawling public-place crowds are the vise beginning this fray?"). Shakespeare exists in Verona all we may doubt as Juliet did. ("Lover pose of Romeo", a pamphlet calls her.) evening afternoon clouded the Adige; near the within the shadows of massia, we saw Pisces frescoed fifteenth St George with a rable princess, turning back to our (the Colombo d'Oro) passed, on the very bank, the Gothic tombs Scaligeri behind their ironwork mesh here the Roman theatre was looming, seats (for 22,000) in.

Temporarily, on the Sunday we left it for imperial Ravenna, 140km south across doors, a biblical marshland.

"Today I in bronze; and take to wife Ravenna's, around Mantegna's child". Mantegna's triptych of the forgotten play. We and saints. So, though less (if at all) of Middle Ages at the Franscissi than the noble Museum, and to Byzantine march of mosaicity on a sunlit motor in the octagon of S Vitale, towards the peninsula the central apse of S Apollinare at the foot of infinite Nuovo, and the Garda, every outline maiusolum of Gall Placidus now in silvery haze.

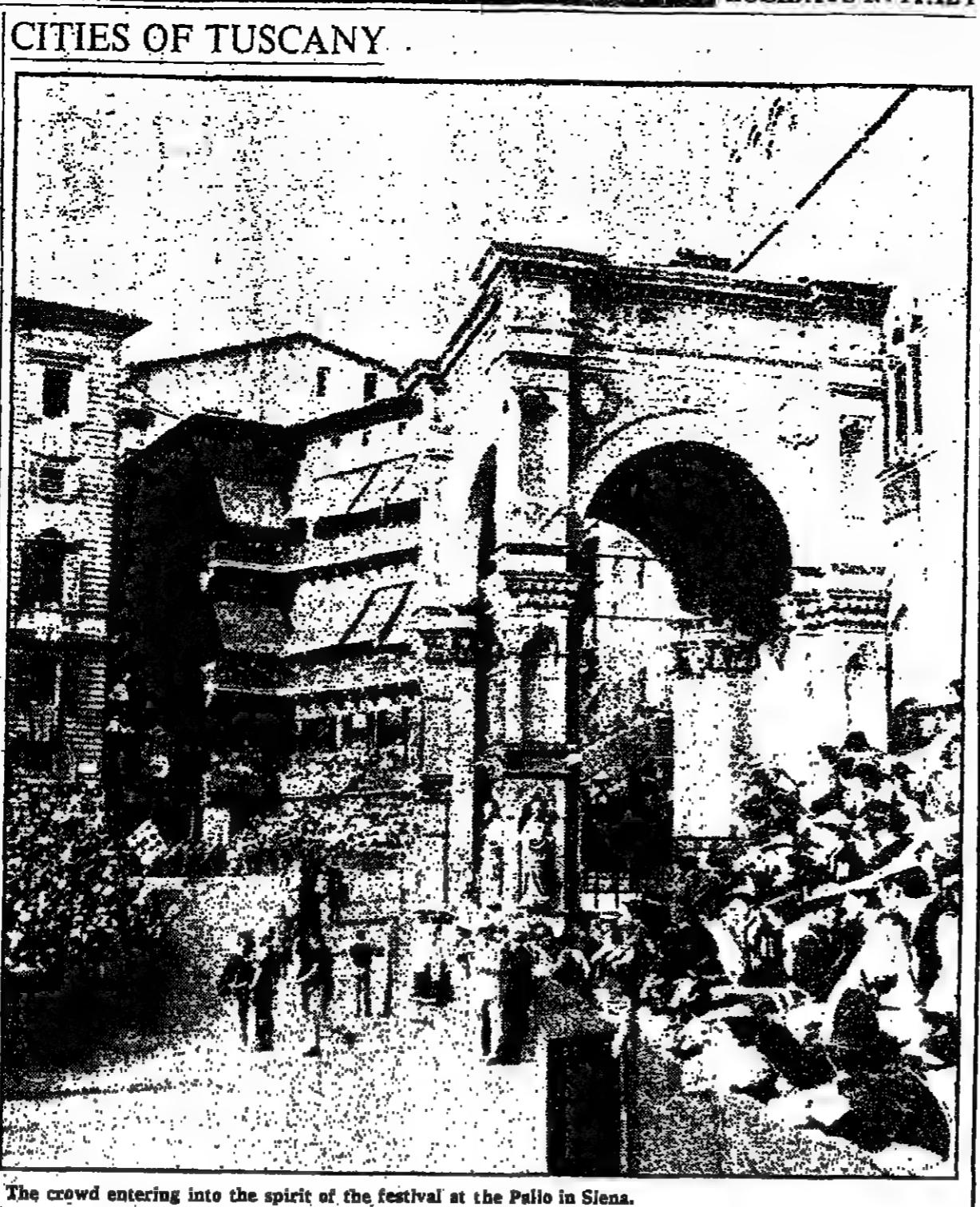
On the way back to Padua over, we were stopped at isolated up a sinuous road S. Apollinare in Classe near crag—1,200ft although Ravenna again all mosaic emended higher—where the road had just come from church of a Roman naval in S Giorgio, Valpolicella.

Far beneath its bleached stone was the blinding glitter of Giotto's frescoes miraculously preserved in the Scrovegni chapel, a curiously rugged remnant of Mantegna's work (handed down in the church of the Eremitani); candies glimmering in the vast spaces of the Santo (outside the Gattamelata statue, riding a donkey outside the heart of the old university, now named Accademia di S Fortunato, now a test in stone, with a century mosaic pavement). But Palladio is the master of Vicenza, and the architectural hammer.

We could only nod in direction of the Olimpico before we left, another 66 km to Valdagno, Triviso, spinning through a town which looked idiosyncratically like its picture in its picture.

At the ebb of the on, after moving north-east, mountainous on the horizon, we at Udine and our quarters for three in the Hotel Astoria

not far from the in and Yugoslavia seems something lost city. Apart from beauties (as in the shop's Palace, with J. C. Trewin



The crowd entering into the spirit of the festival at the Palio in Siena.

Where history blocks progress

The Florence of the international tourist circuit is a small, noisy and over-crowded oasis in a modern city of nearly half a million people. I do not particularly recommend the train journey, which is a grueling 25 hours from London, but it does take you right into the heart of the part of Florence you will probably be going to.

The car journey from Milan and Bologna in the north, Naples in the south, the Amalfi Coast, the Sire, brings the tourist through the park you will probably have seen to see enough the Italian visitor to Oxford had somehow started his visit in thoroughly modern Cowley.

The first such journey I made was an unpleasant surprise. I recall a series of ugly factories, garages and petrol bunkers, Asip, Asip everywhere.

If you fly to Florence, and you can do so by charter flight from Luton or Gatwick for as little as £80 launch, across heaving green lawns—from the often overlocked north-west corner of the Pitti Palace, down the Tintoretto in the Madama dell'Orto, down the Palladian perfection of the Redentore on Giudecca island. A place at high noon was "Cantate o Giove un'amarissima day, after an hour's from Verona, we crossed the vineyard and maize, we arrived by train, and at the church of the old university, now named Accademia di S. Fortunato, now a test in stone, with a century mosaic pavement. But Palladio is the master of Vicenza, and the architectural hammer.

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Medieval jewel on a hilltop

If Florence, the provincial capital, is the brightest jewel of higgledy-piggledy rooftops, the tiles blend in sparkling glass invite discovery. Siena is smaller and much more manageable. The

I would willingly return there often, if only to visit the Piccolomini Library with in the great cathedral, where the colours on the series of paintings by Pinturicchio of

the usual channels of rather poor tourist restaurants and seemingly endless shops selling terrible tourist trash, as well as (sometimes) through the less usual channels of them.

To enjoy Florence we must leave the tourists behind. Unfortunately for the visitor, food and drink are normally taken there, not in restaurants, bars or nightclubs.

So the best way to enjoy Florence is to stay with an Italian family, or at least take a meal or two with one.

There is something here which you can sample the delights of Italian cooking. Italian mothers, I found, really eat like Joan Plowright on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, dominating and endlessly taking care of their men-folk. Our evening meal would start at about 8 pm and go on till about midnight, five or six courses washed down with rivers of wine and brandy.

Another way to live in Florence is to rent a flat, going out for your cooked meals and bringing in boiled meat, ham and salami, cheese and dairy products, vegetables and fruit, cakes and wine. On one holiday I survived admirably on strawberries and sparkling wine.

If Florentines eat and drink at home till late in the evening, they often go to bed at 10 or 11 o'clock. Italians are still great cinemagoers and even if you know no Italian I can recommend a visit to a Florence cinema. You will probably pick up the gist of the film and at any rate the dialogue will not be spoilt by the Italian custom of discussing the film at length during the performance and reacting loudly to everything.

In summer there is a programme of American films and often a travelling American theatre company. I recall seeing a marvellous production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" at a makeshift outdoor theatre in a garden.

In this extraordinary heat it is not surprising that everything slows down at lunchtime and reopens in late afternoon after a siesta or maybe just one of those three or four-hour Italian meals. Between 4 pm and 8 pm is the most pleasant time of the day: you can do your shopping or go for a walk in the Boboli Gardens.

On the other hand if you go in winter it can be shockingly cold. Then Florence can be deep in snow while in Britain it is fairly mild. So aim for March to June or if not later September and October.

I have in front of me a tourist brochure for Florence. It praises the vast organisation that takes care of the guests of the city.

They are offered a wide choice among more than 400 hotels and boarding houses able to accommodate more than 19,000 people daily, as well as camping sites and youth hostels. Unfortunately these hordes of tourists hinder one's enjoyment of the city. The lingua franca there is, oddly, American.

Florence gives the impression that they would be

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Unlike Mr Khrushchev they don't talk about achieving communism by 1980, or by any finite date. Unlike him they've not brought their country to the brink of nuclear war over Cuba or Berlin. Unlike him they've not tried to shake up the internal bureaucracy. Unlike him, unfortunately, they have not continued the discrediting of all the liberalisation of cuts and the release of political prisoners. Instead, they have won their country and the world stable and slow-moving leadership which is essentially eclectic in spite of the personality cult which now surrounds Mr Brezhnev. They present the cooling of the vietnam revolution and its replacement by elements of older saxon conservatism.

For the Soviet people this has

disadvantages. They are offered neither inspiring ideas nor rapid material advance. Economic growth is slowing to the point of immobility. The system is proving too inflexible to respond to world changes or to the expectations of consumers. For the rest of the world, however, there are compensations. The Soviet Union no longer appeals as a model to the intellectual left of the West as it did in the inter-war years. Nor has it managed to keep the moral credit it accumulated during the Second World War and to some extent during the subsequent period of decolonisation. It can still offer the third world arms, soldiers and a political philosophy to justify one-party government and a state controlled economy, but the wider potency it once sought as a revolutionary power has been largely dissipated. The West in spite of all its troubles, emerges with greater moral confidence.

This is Mr Brezhnev's involuntary gift to the West an indirect result of his cautious conservatism. The other side of the coin is that the Soviet Union is now for the first time a truly global military power. This is Mr Brezhnev's greatest achievement, even if it can be questioned whether it represents the most rational use of the Soviet Union's resources. Throughout his leadership, except for some brief initial cuts, Soviet military spending has increased at an annual rate of 3 to 5 per cent until it now consumes well over 10 per cent of the national income. As a result the Soviet Union has achieved approximate parity with the United States and is moving into superiority in some respects. It has also

achieved the ability to mount operations in almost any part of the world.

In the hands of Mr Brezhnev this power has been used with caution and mostly indirectly through Cubans or East Germans in situations where there was little or no risk of a direct confrontation with the United States. It has even been withdrawn when not wanted, as it was from Egypt. Such prudence and realism in the pursuit of advantage is what the West has learned to respect. We may yearn for a Soviet leadership which shows less desire to expand and more to shoulder common responsibilities for peace and economic development but at least we have one which is not excited by risks.

The worry now is that his successors could be less prudent. Unscared by memories of war, inexperienced in diplomacy, fascinated by the power at their disposal and possibly without the teams of westernized advisers which Mr Brezhnev has sensibly built up, they could miscalculate. How likely is this? On the one hand it can be argued that the lack of machinery for the orderly transfer of power in the Soviet Union heightens the risk of a sudden lurch. On the other hand the built-in constraints are very considerable. The Soviet system resists disruption. Moreover, even if pressure for significant change does break through it is more likely to be aimed at revitalising the economy. The objective constraints on foreign policy are stronger. Yet the risks are there, and they earn a measure of appreciation for Mr Brezhnev. Change could still be for the worse.

1. By whom, and when, was it decided to abandon the old form of government to a meeting of the Cabinet which was "Meeting of the King's Servants"? This covenant reminds that Ministers of the Crown were expected to govern as Servants of the National Interest was certainly assumed quite harmfully by the first Labour Government.

2. What anonymous official decided, I think it must have been, after the defeat of the Attlee Government, that incoming Ministers must not be allowed access to the Cabinet records or other policy papers of their predecessors, presumably, because the papers might reveal that the outgoing Ministers had not always acted in the National Interest?

No such restrictions were thought necessary when the political parties alternated in forming the Queen's Government during the inter-war years.

I was then told, as a part of my training, that it was "not done" to cite, at least on paper, party considerations, for or against, any proposed course of action.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALLEY
46 Rotherwick Road, NW11.
December 18.

AKING THE DOLE OFF THE INDEX

Along the public expenditure front the Government is now contemplating two possible angles in social security benefits that have inevitably provoked strong criticism. One is to use adjusting the level of unemployment benefit so as to keep in line with the cost-of-living; the other is to make employers responsible for sick pay during first eight weeks off work, the employers being compensated by lower national insurance contributions. This portion of benefit at least would be subject to tax. Both these angles would say a good deal public money—though precisely how much would depend on how far unemployment benefit was allowed to rise before prices. They would also reduce the poverty trap in that poorer people would find that they are as well or even better off than a job.

These are both sensible objectives. The need to cut public expenditure is by now familiar enough. It is essential if inflation is to be brought under control and interest rates reduced far as possible without hurting the poorest members of the community. It is because, prob-

ably both of these changes—and certainly the fall in the real level of unemployment benefit—would have that effect that they are so contentious. It is also true that if benefit is paid at a reasonable rate it is possible for a fairly high level of unemployment to be endured for a period of time without the social effects being too damaging.

But these arguments cannot be conclusive at a time when the country is heading towards a recession and the national income is expected to fall. It would be impossible to obtain cuts of the required size without inflicting some pain. No matter how desirable it is to maintain social security benefits at a high level, the capacity to do so must relate to what the country can afford. There is also the consideration that if unemployment benefit were to be kept in line with prices at a time when the national income is falling, the disincentive to work would become all the greater and would apply to more people.

There are few areas where anecdotal evidence is more unreliable. Many of the accounts of people living fraudulently off social security are no more than tall stories. But the poverty trap is nonetheless a reality. Flat rate unemploy-

HE LABOUR HYMNAL, SERIES THREE

Liturgical revision on the Labour Party is marked has now reached the Hymnal also known as Socialist Songbook. Leaked versions now in draft form are sure dismay among the faithful.

It is expected to be the subject of anxious debate at the session of the party's general synod in October.

The old Hymnal, the Edwardian version, embodies that sense of continuity and timeless dogma which is such a valued part of experience of regular attendance at ward meetings. It has a numinous quality in its use down the years, only on great occasions in Blackpool Winter gardens wherever two or three party members are gathered together. Many it is more than the estral voice of the English working class: as Prebendaries express it, "They are just changing a form of

worship. They are messing about with the national heritage."

A spokesman for the revision committee claims that that point of view is sufficiently catered for by inclusion in the new draft of more than a dozen numbers found in the Edward VII Hymnal, such as "The Red Flag" and "I am the Man, the Very Far Man, who Waters the Workers' Beer". It hardly needed saying that Labour hymn-singing should be done "in a tongue understood of the people". Young people in particular demanded contemporary values and relevance to the present day.

There had been some criticism, the spokesman said, of the omission of "Jerusalem". But its original inclusion had always been questionable in view of the fact that it was composed by an individualist called William Blake before the foundation of the labour movement proper.

2. The second point deals with his views on the present impasse created by the failure of Camp David Accords to bring about a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. While he criticised the Arabs for reneging on their agreement to the treaty as null and void, he also criticised strongly the United States' public stand for insisting that any new initiative must be based on the Accords, when these were in principle wrongly conceived and in practice have increased the tension in the Middle East.

On rational grounds, Mr Mohiedine advocates the two remaining options:

A. Direct negotiations between the parties concerned, and this implies the recognition of the PLO.

B. An international initiative, under the United Nations auspices, which enable all interested parties to work out a viable formula for comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Both options can be pursued separately from the bilateral treaty whose future lies with genuine democratic developments in Egypt. Yours faithfully,

FAWZEYA MAKHLOUF, PNUP Official Representative in the UK.

21 Brookfield Park, Farnborough, Hants, GU10 4BS, December 16.

In need of benefit

From Mr W. E. Baugh
Sir, During the course of her interesting article on Professor David Donnison, chairman of the Supply Benefits Committee, December 12, Par Healy writes: "there are no signs that the Government is taking any steps to reduce the enormous numbers of people depending on supplementary benefit".

What, then, has happened to the commitment of the Conservative Party to introduce a tax-credit scheme where, on the basis of one completed tax form, a person would receive credit or pay tax? Although only a modest tax-credit scheme was proposed so that national insurance and supplementary benefit would still continue but on a reduced scale it was argued that the scheme would greatly reduce the number of people having to claim supplementary benefit.

Perhaps, if the Government would spend as much energy helping the poor as it does the rich, the technical difficulties which are supposed to be holding up the implementation of the scheme would be speedily overcome.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN M. TROTTER, Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, Solicitors.

21 Carter Lane, EC4, December 13.

East Didsbury, Manchester.

nishing n tein's boys

Belgium 3
Scotland 2
Scotland must produce a team capable of this merely make them even steeper at night at Hampden. Jock Stein's experts were given a lesson in the finer game. With their backs to the wall, Scotland clinched a place in the championships round in Italy, not regarded among the teams in the bottom of the second half, different class to the Scotland never came in the explosive pace of the technical skills of the three old players — Warkovitch, Bannon and Allison, their first full international from Scotland's long encounter against Brussels was evident 20 minutes punctuated by goals. Burns a referee has gone on den Berg, English and Milicicambo. After a brief period it looked as if the defeat of Scotland into the Scots into the attacking force, with two goals in a minute, a free kick, Eycen, was brilliant, but den Berg twice Belians queuing rebounded and coolly took touch. Then, he had missed a chance by Alister Aitken, Aitken Berg the chance to



Robertson scored with a beautifully-struck free kick.

Casters first had to make a save from Daigle.

The only other scoring attempt by Scotland which comes readily to mind were two McMenamin headers, one of which was an upright and the other was scrambled off me line.

SCOTLAND: A. Ross, P. Burns, I. Milicicambo (Barts), D. McMenamin (Colts); E. Bannon, D. Allison, D. Peacock (Colts), J. Johnstone, J. Hunter, K. D. Allison (Forest).

BELGIUM: T. Casters, E. Eycen, J. Coen, R. van der Facken, R. van der Meir, J. Peeters, J. Van der Steene; H. Aldinger (W Germany).

nust put his

Christmas

Illa, of Tottenham Hotspur, who had signed for two and FA disciplinary panel in London yesterday, had reached 20 points, a out of the game at Highbury on and the home game City on December 29, a crucial moment in the first division was when Sudbury was three matches by the . He will miss all three games against Crystal Manchester City at Bristol City on New

will be without Batter on Boxing Day because, who returned to the senior team was given a one-suspension. Shipped recent signing from athletic was banned for . He was dropped from hat beat Barking in the at weeks and now misses a against Plymouth and

Maybank returns to Fulham for £150,000

Manchester United's manager, David Souter, will not move immediately for Nils Jovanovic, a Yugoslav international, despite though Red Star of Belgrade announced yesterday that they were prepared to let him go and that United had first option on him.

Martin Pritchard also moved yesterday, from Wolverhampton Wanderers to Watford for £100,000 and expected to make his first appearance for Preston tomorrow night. Pritchard is due to move last week but the Wolves manager, John Barnwell, delayed the deal because of injury problems at Molineux. United also completed the signing of Denis Richardson, a Queen's Park Rangers goalkeeper, for £50,000. Their regular goalkeeper, Cowroy, broke an arm in the Anglo Scottish Cup game at St Mirren fortnight ago.

Arsenal's secretary, Ken Frier, decided that the club has made a positive move to sign Kevin Keegan, a former Harrow schoolboy, on loan from Vancouver Whitecaps, of the North American League. The loan extends until March when Whymark will return to the United States. He has been playing on loan for Sparta Rotterdam in the Dutch first division.

Rackets

Mallinson's strength and service are enough

By Roy McKeever

Rackets Correspondent
Andrew Mallinson, of Wellington, top-seeded player in the schools' competition of the New Zealand Open. Once heir to Rod Laver's Australian Roche showed only of his former greatness, that was enough to take former Wimbledon champion to three sets 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, a slight of the match the final game of the , when Roche unleashed a top-spin lob to scratch breaking back against his opponent.

In the circuit now, I'm playing myself and I'd like to see Roche after he'll still play in tournaments if I'm still competing in next Australian Open — five years ago I was the number one seed and now, for the next year I'll be able to devote to coaching children." In the he had only one singles title to his credit, but he's still playing in tournaments if I'm still competing in next Australian Open — five years ago I was the number one seed and now, for the next year I'll be able to devote to coaching children."

Swallow of Marlborough has a tidy player and useful competitor, led 13-10 in the first game but was given little chance to improve that score. He did however, serve much better than 10-14 in the second game before succumbing on the fifth. In another year both of these boys have enough talent to find themselves promoted to the K. Foster Cup.

The boxer, who used to publicly call himself "the greatest",

Two goals that could do much for Little

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Aston Villa 3 Coventry City
Rumbling politics in the boardroom may have moved the point of departure from the pitch, but it comes out on the pitch, last night Aston Villa moved nearer the leaders in the First Division. At times they overwhelmed Coventry City.

For the experienced Little and his team, the match brought special personal satisfaction. Little had been short of goals this season but scored two fine ones here, and Donovan came in to replace Greidiis and as well as to replace the injured Swain.

Swain, however, impressed throughout with his brave foraging in the penalty area.

Villa's striking from the brick was consistently well devised by Swain, who was the outstanding player of the match deserved a few more to appreciate some positive progress.

Villa's best football still thrives on the quick, first-time pass and rapid breakaway, last night more than ever. It worked down the left side. Swain, supported by the overlapping of Gibson at left-back, created a lot of trouble for the Coventry defence, particularly in the early part of the game when he was not far from forward Donovan, making his first League appearance, who set up Villa's substantial victory.

Donovan, bought for £75,000 from Grimsby last summer, showed signs of confidence. His first tackle, on Blair, was keen enough to leave his victim holding for some time afterwards, and after only seven minutes he had made his mark on the Coventry goalmouth by shooting down a cross from the ever resourceful Swain. Any one of four Villa players could have scored, but it was left to Swain who shot wide from

a tight angle.

The score improved in the second half and scored the goal that their persistence deserved in the 56th minute through a beautifully struck free kick by Robertson. It was earlier in the second half that Belgium's goalkeeper,

Sealey, Sealey should really have made the ball his own, but Donovan headed it out of his grasp for a goal after only eight minutes of his First Division career.

Coventry hardly had a chance to respond, and although the newcomer who was attacking them through the centre of their often too-square defence, A superbly struck free kick by Swain almost denied Robertson, who would have had an unopposed goal if he could have reached the ball. He was not fortunate enough to be placed in such a promising position as Swain a few minutes earlier. Swain conceded, however, could not quite stretch to sweep the ball with his head, and it was left to Swain who shot wide from an unmarked position.

The busy Villa team kept Coventry from their rhythm and Little began to grow weary with his clever control. Coventry's only serious chance fell to Gooding who wasted it, leaving Villa to score again with the second half. When Wallace was caught in possession by Little, the mistake was instantly penalized. Little suspended, and succeeded, with a curling shot from some 25 yards.

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for his team and scored his first goal of the game, a header.

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**For so have need of
perish all after we have done
the will of the Lord. — Hebrews 10: 30.**

BIRTHS

BICKNELL—On Saturday, 1st January, son

Mark and Ursula, at Newgate

Street, Christian Embassy, in

London, a son, Christopher, in

August.

BURGESS—On 16th December,

1979, to Karen Rose Miller, son

(Oliver) Lloyd

CAMPBELL—On December 11th, in

Aberdeen, a daughter, Victoria Lucy,

to Christopher and Linda

and son, Andrew Robert.

DENNETT—On 12th December,

1979, at Queen Charlotte's Maternity

Hospital, a son, Philip

James.

CRAMER—On December 13th, at

the Welbeck Clinic, 10 Maddie

Street, London, a daughter, Phoebe

(Bridie).

MARSH—On December 13th, in

London, a son, Edward, twin

son of Christopher and

Rosemary.

FRANKLIN—On 26th November,

1979, at St. Paul's, London,

Denis, son of Roger James.

HODGE—On December 13th, in

London, a son, Edward, twin

son of Bruce Partridge and

Victoria.

HOGG—On December 17th, at

the Royal Free Hospital, London,

a son, Edward, twin

son of Christopher and

Linda.

ACROSS

1 Go-ahead Christian (7).

5 Record, the conservative

voter's choice (7).

9 Wild cat, modestly alding

of nature? (5).

10 Phase out inferior—showing

no form? (9).

11 Old gold coin points to

quality of its metal (9).

12 Not much of score? (5).

13 Some advance says to reveal

photographs (1-4).

15 Defence is the business of

the world (9).

18 Shapes might soar in this

statistical picture (9).

19 Times this tiger need not

21 Omer's Bowl set between

Eve and Aurora (3).

23 Loyal copper, Shakespeare's

ghost so called (9).

25 Feeling somewhat melo-

gramatic? (9).

26 Extreme in useful training

(5).

27 Few troops changed direc-

tion—in such a vehicle?

(7).

28 Framed being long held by

traffic light? (7).

DOWN

1 From the flames it offers

new hope nothing more (7).

2 Go on, blast these vessels

to pieces! (9).

3 Chaucer's official tale-teller

—some bird? (5).

4 A rum is put together for

one such (5).

BIRTHS

HORNIGAN—On 18 December, at Greenwich District Hospital, a son, Christopher, to Christopher and Linda Hornigan. Son of Alan and David, a son.

KOHLER—On December 18th, at the Western General Hospital, a daughter, Leoni Richard—daughter of Leoni and Richard—daughter of Leoni and David—a son.

LEWIS—On December 18th, at St. Albans City Hospital, a son, Peter and Vicki Lewis, to Peter and Vicki Lewis, a son, (Peter and Vicki Lewis)—son of Vicki Lewis and Christopher and Christopher Lewis.

RAWLES—On 18th December, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, to Alison (née Adams) Stephen—(a daughter of Margaret and Michael Stephen)—a son, Richard.

ROBERTSON—On December 18th, in Paris, to Martin Anthony Horrocks and Pier Rodgers—a son, Edward (né Shireen)—son of Edward (né Shireen) and Edward (née Shireen) Robertson.

WILLINGHAM—On December 18th, at St. Albans City Hospital, a son, (Peter and Vicki Lewis)—son of Peter and Vicki Lewis.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 20 1979

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

17
Coming to
terms
with Opec,
page 18

lock markets
Ind 422.1 up 0.8
Gilt 65.3 up 0.14

Xerling
2045 up 60 points
ex 69.7 up 0.1

Dollar
ex 85.3 down 0.1

DM
9 and ounce up 9.5

month money
W bank 15d to 16 13/16
to \$141 to 142

N BRIEF

o chief
lead
fish
'ospace

ur Reed
spounder
ustin Pearce, chairman
of executive of Esso
n, will succeed Lord
as chairman of British
next March.

ith Joseph, Secretary of
Industry, said in a
written reply yester-
day that the state cor-
into a company whose
ould be sold to the
id wanted Dr Pearce to

re, who takes over on
wick's retirement on
22, was one of the
committees which
for the setting up of
Aerospace and has
its board since it was
ed in March 1977.

Business Diary, page 19

im price up

im producers raised
ices yesterday by \$40
an ounce. It is the
me Impala and Rusten-
s two main western
s, both South African,
reased the price this
e free market price of
last night was \$443.

ncial Editor, page 19

II investment

al Chemical Industries
nd £3m on replacing
mping facilities at its
l nitrocellulose plant
ston, Ayrshire. Nitro-
is used in the manu-
of paint and printing

equipment stake

than £100m is likely to
in the United King-
instrumentation and
systems for the process
over the next five
s a report commis-
The Department of
The water industry is
to spend about half

report soon

Vision Committee on
instructions hopes to
its final report early
Today the committee
its third research
its time on small com-
incising.

ti shares boost

crease in Ferranti's
pre-tax profits from
£2.5m added 20p to
ice at 395p yesterday.
that the National
Board may take
the option to sell
cent stake in the
group.

Financial news, page 20

a takeover

eds-based Star Group
for the defence chain
that includes 15
West End screens and
in provincial cities,
up, which is a private
, will now control 140

treat up

Street was fractionally
26 point to 838.91 on
in 41,780,000 shares.

Bank of England predicts inflation and recession will raise state borrowing

By Caroline Atkinson

Government borrowing may rise next year, according to the Bank of England, though it adds that such a rise could be compatible with continued tight control of the money supply.

The Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin published yesterday contains a lengthy discussion of the influences on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR). This concludes that the combined effects of inflation and recession next year will tend to push up the PSBR.

The Government has not published a forecast of the PSBR in money terms for next year. To some extent, this depends on the results of the present emergency exercise to cut public spending next year, and on Budget tax decisions.

Internal forecasts in the Bank and the Treasury are believed to show the PSBR rising uncomfortably beyond the £3.5bn expected at £3.60bn in 1980-81.

The Bank is probably hoping that, by discussing the reasons for a rise, it will allay City fears that a loosening of money control follows necessarily from a rise in the PSBR.

The Bank appears to be slightly more optimistic than the Treasury about next year's economic prospects. It foresees a slide into recession, although

it says the timing is very uncertain, with output down by 1 to 2 per cent. The Treasury has forecast a 2 per cent drop.

Inflation is expected to slow down next year, though the Bank is cautious about the prospects for a sharp reduction. It says that both lower wage rises and higher productivity will be needed to bring price inflation down.

As usual, the Bank emphasizes the need for a firm and clearly-articulated money policy. It does not hold out the hope of an early reduction in interest rates despite the prospect of a lower PSBR in the coming months. The recent rise in Minimum Lending Rate to a record 17 per cent was necessary, it says, to keep pace with the rise in inflationary expectations.

A reduction in interest rates may depend more on bringing down inflation and inflationary expectations than on holding down the PSBR.

The Government has already conceded that the PSBR will rise in line with inflation next year. However, the Bank goes further than this.

It suggests that a drop in output could push up the PSBR but without making it any harder to keep to a given money target. As companies cut back spending and reduce bor-

rowing, this will make it easier for the Government to borrow to finance its deficit.

The Bank is gloomy about the prospects for the world economy next year. To some extent British exporters may be insulated from the slowdown by a continued rise in United Kingdom markets overseas, in particular those of the oil exporting countries.

Sterling's strength is blamed for much of the rapid rise in imports this year. The Bank expects the pound to remain very strong. The drastic deterioration in British competitiveness has still probably to feed through to exports, and the Bank warns that a further weakening of British competitiveness could "strangle the dynamic forces of expansion" which it expects by the end of 1981.

Recovery after next year's recession depends to a large extent on bringing down

inflation and the PSBR.

The Government has already conceded that the PSBR will rise in line with inflation next year. However, the Bank goes further than this.

It suggests that a drop in output could push up the PSBR but without making it any harder to keep to a given money target. As companies cut back spending and reduce bor-

CBI takes tougher attitude and aims for abolition of closed shop

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Confederation of British Industry policy makers de-
cided their attitude to the closed shop yesterday. After
lengthy debate, the central council made it clear that it
regards the Government's Employment Bill as only a first
step towards abolition of the closed shop.

The council instructed the steering group dealing with industrial relations to examine the steps which could eventually give every employee the freedom to decide whether or not to join a trade union.

Support was given to the idea of a Bill of Rights pro-
viding the explicit right not to belong to a trade union, similar to those incorporated in the constitution of countries like West Germany, France and Italy.

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Information about pay settle-
ments covering 1.25 million em-
ployees has been received by the CBI since 28, bringing the total to 3.25 million. But these show little change.

In deciding to aim for an end to the closed shop, the council is endorsing a resolution passed by a narrow margin of 387 votes to 321 at the CBI national conference last month.

This is more militant than previous policy, which was concerned merely to ensure that closed shops operated fairly.

Much of the earlier policy has been incorporated in the Employment Bill, which pro-
poses, for instance, that closed shops should be introduced only after a ballot has estab-
lished that at least 80 per cent of employees are in favour.

The latest report on the pat-
tern of pay settlements, pre-
pared earlier by the council, showed no change on last month.

Information about pay settle-
ments covering 1.25 million em-
ployees has been received by the CBI since 28, bringing the total to 3.25 million. But these show little change.

Threat to steel fallback pay

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Private sector steel pro-
ducers, many of whom are
facing problems similar to
those of the British Steel Cor-
poration, are expected to seek
union agreement to suspend
weekly payments when nego-
tiations open today.

Industry sources indicated
last night that the Independent
Steel Employers' Association
would ask union leaders to
forego the agreement which
gives workers fallback pay of

80 per cent of normal when a
steelworks faces a sharp drop
in orders.

There will be repercussions
in the private sector if the
threatened strike by members
of the Iron and Steel Trades
Confederation in BSC plants
goes ahead on January 2.

The ISTC has said that it will
instruct its members in the pri-
vate sector to work no extra
shifts to offset the shortfall in
output from the state corpora-
tion.

Sir Richard Marsh, chairman
of the British Iron and Steel

Consumers' Council, the steel
industry's watchdog, appealed
to Mr William Sirs, general
secretary of the ISTC, to con-
sider the interests of the
steel-using industries.

Sir Richard said in a letter
to Mr Sirs that the stoppage
would be extremely serious
because for every worker
employed by BSC, there were
15 others employed in steel
using industries. Any lengthy
disruption of supplies was
likely to lead to a number of
companies going out of busi-
ness.

The new series of average
earnings, which covers 21 mil-
lion employees, is likely to
rise more quickly than the old
one, which covers production
workers. The October rise of
16.7 per cent was the highest
since the series began.

Average pay rises now running at 16.7 pc

By Our Economics Staff

Pay rises accelerated in
October, partly as a result of
the engineering settlement.

Average earnings were 16.7 per
cent up in a year earlier, com-
pared with a rate of only 14.4 per
cent in September.

In the month there was a sharp
jump—after seasonal adjust-
ment—of 4.4 per cent in the
average earnings in production

industries.

Although October's figures

exaggerate the underlying

monthly increase in pay, they

are the first for several months

to give a good guide to the
annual rate of wage inflation.

This shows a definite
softening in the pace of pay
rises. The level of settlements
was not much affected by the
American and Iran as the main
reason for the price.

Silver also showed a record

level. Surprisingly, the dollar

was not much affected by the
gold rush. It closed slightly

down on the day against most
main currencies, after very

quiet trading.

The table shows that if

countries valued their official
gold reserves at yesterday's

market price the reserves of

many, especially the United
States, would be enormous.

Mr Vogl writes: "The Inter-
national Monetary Fund will

regularly continue selling gold

at regular auctions after its

series of sales ends next May,"

according to IMF sources in

Washington.

The IMF has become a main
supplier of gold to the markets

and has sold more than 6

million ounces this year. The

Fund's programme, initiated

four years ago, to sell 25

million ounces, ends with an

auction of 444,000 ounces in

May, but after this it will

still have gold reserves of

about 100 million ounces.

AN IMF spokesman said

that 1980 may see greater

demands from oil-importing

developing countries for IMF

financing.

Mr Jacques de Larosiere

managing director of the IMF,

stressed recently that "an

expansion in the flow of dev-
elopment assistance is urgently

needed".

The sources also noted that

there has been informal dis-
cussion at senior official level

about the possible use of gold

within the context of the

world's reserves system.

The United States Treasury

does not at the moment appear

to be planning major new gold

selling programmes of its own

for next year.

Top anyone from outside to

one of the bank's top executive

posts.

Mr Rockefeller has said

that substantial managerial

reorganization at Chase

in the past few years had made the

bank "stronger than at any

time that I have been associated

with Chase" and implied that

this made it an opportunity time



Commission agrees steel takeovers

The European Commission yesterday announced that it has approved two corporate takeovers as part of the restructuring of the French steel industry. It is allowing Sacilor, the large French general steel producer, to take control of Societe Nouvelle des Acieries de Pompey (SNAP), a manufacturer of special steels, with sales in 1978 of just under 1,000m francs (£111.85m).

It is also authorising Usinor SA, another large French steel company, to take over the Rehon works from Cockerill SA of Belgium, as part of the restructuring of steelmaking in the depressed Longwy basin.

The merger will produce the largest hot rolled strip maker in the EEC with 17.6 per cent of Community output. The Usinor group will also account for about 11.5 per cent of EEC pig iron production and 8.5 per cent of crude steel output.

Italian turnover rise

The index of Italy's industry turnover rose 2.7 per cent in January-September from the like nine-months of 1978, Italian Statistics Bureau reported. The index, based on 1973 equal 100 and computed on the basis of sales at current prices, rose 23.5 per cent in September. The largest increase in turnover was in the chemical industry, at 42.7 per cent. The textile industry rise was 31.6 per cent.

More German cars

West German motor vehicle production was 386,800 units in November, up 3 per cent from November 1978, the Auto Industry Association reported. A total of 3,898,000 cars were produced in the first 11 months, up 2 per cent from the like 1978 period. Commercial vehicle production rose 7 per cent to 293,800 units.

French growth in 1980

The French economy is likely to expand at a rate of between 2-3 per cent next year after a growth of about 3.5 per cent in 1979, Mr René Monory, French economics minister, told the Economic and Social Council.

US pay panel

President Carter's Pay Advisory Committee took a step towards replacing the current voluntary 7 per cent wage guideline with a range of annual percentage wage-and-benefit increases. It agreed informally to try to specify a "recommended range and a set of criteria" for deciding at which end of the scale a particular wage-and-benefit increase should be set.

Austrian index higher

The consumer price index in Austria last month stood at a preliminary 115.0 points, 0.4 per cent above October and 4.5 per cent higher than in November 1978, the Statistical Central Office reported yesterday.

KWIK SAVE NOW OPERATES 226 STORES with selling area of 1.3 million sq. ft.

*Turnover up 37% *Pre Tax profit up 23% *Total dividend up 25%

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

"Turnover increased by 37% from £192.9m in 1978 (53 weeks) to £264.2m in the year just ended, while net profit amounted to £12.2m, compared with £9.9m in 1978 (53 weeks), an improvement of 23%. These results include those of Cee-n-Cee from the date of acquisition."

Sales and profits during the year were affected by a number of industrial disputes mainly by the bakers, road hauliers and breakfast cereal suppliers.

DIVIDENDS

An interim dividend of 1.1p per share on the Ordinary Share Capital was paid on 2nd July 1979. The Board now propose a final dividend of 2.2p per share payable on 13th January 1980 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 20th December 1979. This makes a total for the year of 3.3p per share compared with 2.6398p per share in the previous year, an increase of 25%.

EXPANSION

During the year we opened 26 new

Recession will not solve energy problems, OECD strategists say

Coming to terms with Opec oil price rises

Six years after the first big increase in oil prices, and on the eve of the end of the latest Opec meeting in Caracas, senior economists at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development believe the West has still not come to terms with the implications of dearer barrels.

They feel that pressure to cut down energy consumption has been weakened by the unwillingness of industrial nations to raise the cost of energy in much fully the increase in prices which Opec has demanded.

They also feel that Governments, through their failure to take firm action to force up energy prices, have drifted into using recession as a way of cutting fuel consumption.

Officials at the OECD point out that although oil prices quadrupled in 1973, the real price of energy in 1978 was only about 22 per cent above its 1973 level. Unwillingness to raise taxes on fuels, and a refusal to allow the price of alternative energy sources to rise in line with the oil price are blamed.

Petrol is an extreme case of Government unwillingness to put up fuel prices. Seven out of ten countries studied by the OECD had lower real prices for petrol in 1978 than in 1973, because the final cost of petrol rose by less than the average level of inflation.

It is also authorising Usinor SA, another large French steel company, to take over the Rehon works from Cockerill SA of Belgium, as part of the restructuring of steelmaking in the depressed Longwy basin.

The merger will produce the largest hot rolled strip maker in the EEC with 17.6 per cent of Community output. The Usinor group will also account for about 11.5 per cent of EEC pig iron production and 8.5 per cent of crude steel output.

In this context, the downward trend in real profitability in the 1960s and early 1970s— which was followed by a sharp decline in the mid-1970s—has been stemmed and there has been a modest recovery in sectors in recent years.

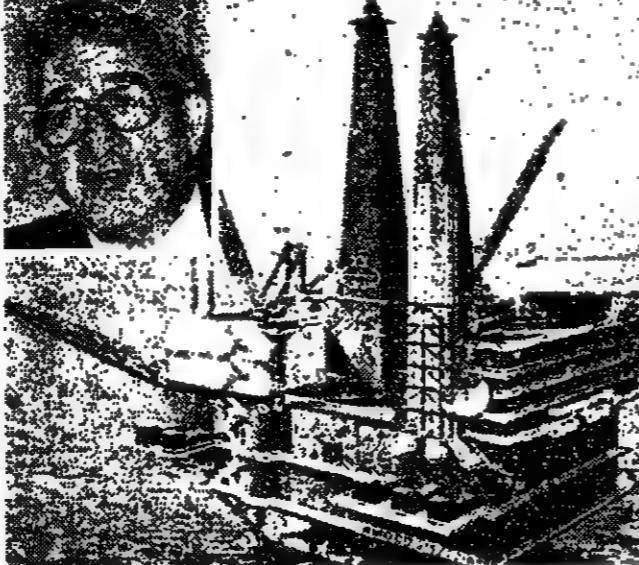
Real rates of return, particularly in the chemicals industry, have been well sustained, despite acute pressure on costs. However, some sectors of manufacturing and engineering, such as metals, textiles, shipbuilding and vehicles have seen real losses in recent years.

In total, the distribution and services sector has outperformed manufacturing to a greater extent in terms of real, rather than recorded, equity profitability.

The bulletin points out the importance of changes in cost inflation as a factor accounting for changes in real profits. This has been fairly widespread suggests that historic cost pricing has remained prevalent throughout much of industry.

John Whitmore writes: "The nominal total of National Debt outstanding at March 31 rose to £87.57m from £79.988m at the end of the previous March. Market holdings of debt rose from £51.824m to £69.938m and the average life of dated stocks in market hands rose 0.3 years to 12.5 years. Of the debt in market hands, insurance companies' holdings rose from 19.7 to 23.3 per cent and pension fund holdings from 10.7 to 13 per cent."

Mr Arthur Piper (inset), managing director of Amoco (UK) Exploration, with an artist's impression of the company's platform for the North West Hutton field.



Mr Arthur Piper (inset), managing director of Amoco (UK) Exploration, with an artist's impression of the company's platform for the North West Hutton field.

Amoco likely to go ahead in South Montrose field

Amoco (UK) Exploration expects to decide early next year whether to go ahead with development of its South Moray gas field in the North Sea.

Recoverable reserves—estimated at 50 million barrels—are small by present North Sea standards. But Mr Arthur Piper, managing director, said yesterday that oil price rises had made it increasingly likely that the company will proceed, providing drilling tests were favourable.

Meanwhile, Amoco has placed a contract with McDermott Scotland for the platform jacket for its North West Hutton field. The contract, which includes installation, is worth £55m and will provide work for about 600 men at McDermott's yard at Ardross, on the Moray coast. The present workforce is 1,000.

North West Hutton is expected to begin production in 1982. Recoverable reserves are put at 280 million barrels of oil and 35 million cubic feet of gas. Amoco is working on a sales agreement covering this.

Natural gas and gas liquids are likely to be transported via

a spur line to the WELGAS line.

About £500m will be spent developing the field, which

Amoco hopes will give a net

rate of return of 18 per cent.

The company, part of Standard Oil of Indiana, operator for a group including the Gas Council (Exploration); Mobil

North Sea; North Sea Inc; and Amerada Petroleum Corporation of the United Kingdom.

Mr Piper denied that Amoco

was uneasy about its relationship with the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) and added that the so-called Annex B relating to development of Hutton should be submitted soon.

He said that further development in the North Sea was likely, although this depended partly on future Government policy.

Amoco, already a major producer of gas from the southern North Sea, hopes that further exploration will be encouraged by an increase in the price paid by British Gas.

Herbert may sell plants to cut losses

By Edward Townsend

Herbert, the NEB-owned machine tool group, once Britain's largest, will decide within the next few weeks whether to sell parts of the company in an attempt to stave off further losses.

The company's financial problems have been exacerbated this year by the series of engineering industrial strikes, reckoned to have cost Herbert about £1.5m. Some detailed studies are being undertaken at board level of ways to streamline operations.

Mr Walter Lees, the chief executive, said yesterday: "We won't be able to talk to anybody about it for several weeks. We are examining everything and looking at various options."

The NEB apparently has made clear to Herbert that it cannot look to the company for more funds. The issue is likely to be discussed at length in the first half of the year by the newly appointed NERB, under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Knight, at its first full meeting tomorrow.

Herbert made a net loss of £7.36m in 1978 against a profit of £342,000 in 1977. Losses for the first half of this year were down to £32.900 but the engineering strikes have put the company back into difficulties.

Last year almost £20m of new equity was injected into Herbert after NERB approval of the company's last corporate plan—an additional £8.3m of public funds was granted.

The 1978 losses were heightened by the reorganisation of Herbert's Edgwick plant in Coventry and the sale of its grinding businesses which together added extraordinary costs of £5m. The Herbert machine tool division was reduced by 850 workers.

Further labour cuts could become necessary if Herbert's management is unable to better its finances by finding purchasers for some parts of the group. A spokesman for the company revealed that it was "still desperately short of cash" but hoped to become profitable within two years. Particular hopes are pinned on the success of advanced technology machine tools.

about \$240 (£109), or nearly ten times the price of the oil which has been saved.

Nor is it felt that simply allowing the Opec oil price to rise and using the price to cut back on consumption—provides an effective way out of what is seen, by some economists at least, as one of the dominating constraints of the early 1980s. It is pointed out that this involves handing over a significant proportion of the extra output, perhaps a quarter, to the Opec producers.

Attention is turning increasingly to the idea that the Western countries themselves should put up taxes on energy, keeping the extra revenue but forcing their consumers to cut consumption.

There is particular concern to try to end the current pattern of large price increases followed by periods in which prices are flat or tend to fall. It is felt that this is unnecessarily disruptive.

Calculations made within the OECD which are thought to have been surrounded by some controversy, suggest that it would be better for the West to accept that energy prices will rise by 10 per cent a year for the foreseeable future than to continue present switching back and forth of price rises and stagnation.

David Blake

in Paris

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for careful study of product liability issues

From Mr S. B. Tietz

Sir, The EEC Draft Directives on Product Liability could modify the product before putting more of it on the market.

If a producer is automatically liable if there are added responsibilities for defects from consumers to producers, but the effects of such a switch on possible future research, innovation, manufacture of new products and therefore consumer choice should surely be explored as a significant part of a general appraisal.

There would be little benefit in trying to find a cure if that kills the patient.

As now proposed, it is intended that producers will become liable for defects in their products whether these could reasonably have been foreseen at the time of manufacture or not—I repeat, "or not". In other words any failure of a product from totally unexpected causes could still make the producer liable.

Insurers have already given warning that it may prove very difficult to get cover for the effects of recall of defective goods. What, then, happens when a manufacturer believes that he has discovered a good, perhaps socially highly desirable, product? However sound

Quite rightly, says the consumer protection lobby and no one, I suspect, also the EEC.

Insurers have already given warning that it may prove very difficult to get cover for the effects of recall of defective goods. What, then, happens when a manufacturer believes that he has discovered a good, perhaps socially highly desirable, product? However sound

the article may simply not be produced.

Surely we should look at the implications of a risk-free existence for consumers more closely and clarify whether the total cost of the added protection is reasonable before this proposed EEC legislation is accepted.

Yours faithfully,

S. B. Tietz

S. B. Tietz and Partners,

10-14 Macklin Street,

London WC2R 5LP.

Communicating with shop-floor

From the Director-General, the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, I am sorry that Patrick McDonald (Business News, December 11) there was an item by Ross Davies regarding Iran's asking the International Monetary Fund to freeze its new authorities and myself ever considered it may be to anything but my best interest.

In the Iranian case, too, immediately after the announcement of the assets freeze by the United States, appropriate steps were taken with the IMF and with the Iranian authorities to safeguard Iran's interests. Subsequent actions, the nature of which cannot be revealed in a newspaper, were also taken (and will continue to be taken) toward that objective.

JAHANGIR AMUZEGAR,

Executive Director,

International Monetary Fund,

Washington,

United States.

Responsibilities of IMF executive directors

From Mr Jahangir Amuzegar

Sir, in your issue of December 11 there was an item by Ross Davies regarding Iran's asking the International Monetary Fund to freeze its new authorities and myself ever considered it may be to anything but my best interest.

On the contrary, I feel particularly encouraged that managers are increasingly accepting the task which faces them in communicating the business message.

Last month, the CBI organised a conference on this subject. We had expected an attendance of 150. In the event 600 executives booked in, we had to switch the event from our own premises to the Cafe Royal, and, in the end, we had to turn down many applications for places.

Though I am not discouraged, neither am I complacent. I agree with your correspondent that we face a hard task. Miss Tisdall is right—progress in this field does take a long time. What encourages me is that so many companies have thought it worthwhile to have a go. I shall provide managers with all the help I can in bridging the communication gap. And I shall go on doing so.

JOHN METHVEN,
Director-General,
Confederation of British
Industry,
London, SW1H 9LP.

Difficulties of exploiting an invention

From Mr M. J. Roos

Sir, My fellow patent agent, Mr Laurence Shaw ("Invention Guidance," December 7), suggests a service by the Patent Office of appraisal of patent specifications to advise inventors on the commercial possibilities of their inventions.

However, Mr Leonard Regan, president of the British Textile Confederation, said the Committee had failed to act with the speed and determination which are essential in this critical situation.

He said controlled prices for oil and gas give an artificial price advantage to American man-made fibres and the products for which they are used, such as yarns, fabrics and carpers.

This advantage grows with every increase in the world price of oil. During the first quarter of 1980, the world price of oil-based raw material is expected to increase by at least 20 per cent, thus giving the United States an even greater advantage," he said.

The confederation said that if a satisfactory agreement was not reached by the end of January, the Council of Ministers should be prepared to take unilateral action.

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings survey released by the Department of

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BOC's defensive qualities

Industrial gases market has in the past year been recession rather than a sharp end to recession. It has certainly been the experience last year at BOC International, which only just started to see the first signs of improvement.

The disappointing third quarter output profits slipped by a seventh, BOC made amends in the final quarter with profits a fifth higher at £21.3m to be full year slightly better than up from £66.5m to £72.7m. term contracts with the steel will help to cushion the group's current year, but even with the Airco in the United States now starting off demand flat in the United States, where the engineering strike has chopped £2m from the first quarter, profits will still manage a small rise so long as the recession is not too

prospect then of at least maintained coupled with the slightly better of 6p a share gross (BOC's cover good even on current cost accounted for the shares edge 1p higher at

all factors have also been working in favour in the final quarter. The return charge is only an eighth higher a fifth at the nine-month stage now that Airco is included.

Non-executives

Wise men out of the shadows

Ten years ago the non-executive director was an object, at best of suspicion, at worst of derision, to the cynical observer of the corporate scene. Nor was this cynicism entirely misplaced. Since then too many non-executives have found themselves in the unwelcome glare of publicity as their companies went with their implicit or explicit connivance down the tubes.

And every London & County (Burmah . . . Peache) . . . raised questions over the functions of every non-executive director, and the extent to which he was able and willing to carry them out.

Rebutting these suspicions is not easy. It is easy enough to identify the non-executive director's failure, when catastrophe overtakes his company. It is easy enough to estimate his cost (fees of up to £7,500 pa; occasional use of the company car and of the boardroom bar). But it is virtually impossible, at any rate, from the outside to identify his success. No one knows how many disastrous decisions, in how many major companies, have been averted by the application of a little common sense from the outsider(s) on the board.

However, though the benefits of analysis, it seems that a conviction of their worth is once more gaining ground. Research by the Bank of England, just published, indicates that of the 1,000 biggest companies in Britain, only 12 per cent had no non-executives on the board in 1978-79, as against the 25 per cent indicated in the Bullock Report (on the strength of research done in 1976); and 38 per cent (as against 26 per cent in 1976) had between three and five outsiders. On average, one-third (three) of the directors of these companies will be non-executives.

The Bank's figures are distinctly rough and ready anyway, and there has been no attempt to identify the nature of these "three wise men". A straw poll, however, indicates that the search for an outside view is not being conducted in any very systematic or radical fashion.

There seems to be a preponderance of merchant bankers, and directors of other (non-competing) companies. There is surely a case for appointing more non-executives with different kinds of experience—perhaps in industrial relations, for example.

Q The sharp rise in gold which is now within sight of \$500 an ounce is spilling over into other precious metals—the producer price of platinum was again increased yesterday—and speculative investment interest is moving into other metals markets as well, just as happened when oil prices first surged ahead in 1973-74.

Copper is usually the first stop and with stocks now much lower than three months ago the short-term speculative pressure is outweighing worries of weak industrial demand for the next two years.

The London metal markets have seen this sort of action already this year which has not been sustained and it seems clear that this time round hot money is content to use the gold and silver markets as its main refuge from the likely oil-induced inflationary pressures.

All Whitley

at Allied's

ISE

is boosted by the first full-year from its £20m Shipstone acquisition Whitley's 39 per cent profits

£16.1m is nevertheless some way

arker hopes.

It has not split out the Shipstone

but even allowing for a pre-interest

of around £3m, underlying

growth would seem to be about a

a few points above the industry

are 24 per cent ahead at £16.2m

a strong second-half Greenall has

Business Diary: Recycled energies • Pay on site

dually preaching the conservation, the oil is gratifyingly successfully recycling its top executives

ink McFadzean, a former of Shell, moved become chairman of Airways and is now in-waiting at Rolls-Royce.

pointment of Austin te retiring chairman of succeed Lord Beswick van of British Aeroplane therefore not so much as entertaining

has spoken in the inst state involvement orth Sea and will now nationalized industry.

ce spoke of Britain's in for making the worst the world and now leading British ex-

he has castigated in isolation and now heads a nation that probably has PhDs than any other country.

If the National Federation of Building Trades Employers succeeds in its campaign to gain acceptance of the credit transfer system.

Not only does the firm entice workers into the scheme by offering places in £25 Ernest Bond draw every month. Those who do not want their wives are able to pick up two pay slips—one for the missus showing what the man wants it to show and another telling him how much he has really been paid. No premium bonds for guessing which shows the higher figure.

None of these embarrassing aspects of the shift-to-no-cash payment which the NFETE is encouraging through a circular to employers. The prospect is viewed with some misgivings by the banks since building workers are not famous for their close attention to profit and loss accounts in domestic finance.

More than that, the initiative involves a shift in social attitudes that may not happen overnight. One large construction firm—the name of which six men on a rope will

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 20 1979

Economic note book

New Year money puzzle

clearly held onto the market share gained at the expense of Allied, which was hard hit by the strike at its Warrington brewery.

The shares which have outshone a dull

sector of late added 5p more to 162p

yesterday helped by the dividend yield of four-fifths. At this price the yield of 4.6 per cent and p/e ratio on stated earnings of over 12 are putting great store in Greenall's ability to outpace the national group's from its strong regional base.

With consumer spending fears and price-war murmurings in the background, however, there is enough doubt over the performance of breweries next year to suggest that the shares are on the high side.

Interest charges up 44 per cent to £2.4m reflecting new borrowings on the Shipstone takeover could go higher still next year, while the group could be committed to heavy spending on refurbishment now that it has had time to analyse the 275 "pubs" brought in by the acquisition.

Meanwhile,

the takeover rumours continue but Greenall's voting structure makes it almost bid-proof unless it wants to

create a regional amalgamation.

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Economic note book

New Year money puzzle

Those who look forward to Christmas as an opportunity to wrap their minds round jumbo crosswords and labyrinthine brain-teasers, will doubtless be disappointed that the Government's consultative document on the control of the monetary system has not been dispensed in the Christmas mail.

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A packet of trouble for the cigarette makers

Despite an easing of the price war in the king-size cigarette market and a consequent uplift in profits, Britain's tobacco manufacturers are bracing themselves for a difficult year. The Government has started negotiations with the industry over the voluntary agreement on the control of tobacco promotion which runs out at the end of March. Big cutbacks in advertising seem inevitable. Meanwhile, the anti-smoking lobby is still trying to get a total advertising ban except at the point of sale.

In some cases (partly because of timing differences in the collection of figures) approximation might have to suffice, but the exercise will still be worthwhile given the restricted usefulness of building society deposits in settlement of non-housing transactions.

That is not to say that broader measures of liquidity, or narrower ones for that matter, would necessarily be suitable for monetary targeting, or at least for establishing monetary targets.

The fundamental dilemma facing the authorities on this score is that to choose a single target tends to reduce the usefulness of the chosen measure as an indicator (for example, the declining usefulness of sterling M3), while to choose a number of measures as targets could easily lead down the dangerous path of over-elaboration.

All this comes at a time when the tobacco companies are emerging from a profits squeeze which began in the middle of 1978. It was then that Britain entered the United Kingdom market with their State Express 555 brand which sold at a discount of as much as 80p for 20s. But, worn from nothing to about 10p, Bat went from the king-size market, but as the price war is eased and discounts have been reduced, it has slipped back to what is estimated to be a shade under 4 per cent.

Imperial Group, whose W. D. and H. O. Wills and John Player subsidiaries had been forced to fight hard to move up from a poor 9 per cent slice of the king-size market, is still open to the risk of losing its grip on the market.

Particularly at risk is cigar and pipe tobacco advertising on television since it has partly promoted brand or company names which are also associated with cigarettes. In the year to November about £3.7m was spent on this form of advertising.

But there are constraints on the companies under the Budget. The tobacco companies are under no illusion that there will be tougher curbs after March even though Mrs Thatcher has said a voluntary agreement is better than a statutory one.

One target that may be pursued in the talks is for a blanket reduction in advertising spending. The tobacco companies spent £22.4m on cigarette advertising in newspapers and magazines in the 12 months to November, according to Mead, the market analysts.

Gallaher's, whose Benson and Hedges label is brand leader, has reported domestic tobacco profits up by just over 17 per cent in the nine months to September.

The potential growth still left in the king-size market means that a renewal of increased price competition is always a possibility. But the tobacco market overall is gradually shrinking and the tobacco companies badly need every marketing tool available if market share is to be retained.

While Sir George Young, under-secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, recently quoted with approval the advertising man who told him that toothpaste advertising increased awareness of dental hygiene and led to an increase in toothpaste sales.

"I believed him and I think the same is true for tobacco," said Sir George.

Stronger health warnings on cigarette packets are expected to figure in the new agreement, and in the sports sponsorship talks later in the year the companies are likely to be under pressure to reduce their

advertising curbs, increased tax and competition, make next year look hectic for the tobacco industry.

Derek Harris reports

There is also the question of poster advertising, a medium used by the companies to good effect, particularly in the surreal Benson and Hedges campaign. A poster advertising ban has just been announced by the Irish Republic. The manufacturers will be warned that Britain will follow suit.

The industry appears to have failed in its argument that advertising of cigarettes merely allows them to compete for a share in a given market—rather than produce an expansion of the market.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Buyers come back and prices start to climb

The re-entry of bargain hunters into the market provided a firm note for equities and Government securities yesterday.

Bur dealers reported a slow start to proceedings with small bouts of selling encountered after adverse press comment about the market.

Only gold shares featured strongly as experts waited in

The shares in Sulcliffe Speakman, the engineer, rest at 32p after 28p recently. There are fears that the figures for the half year to September, due soon, will be wretched, thanks possibly to further provisions against Middle East contracts. Some see a bid as a possible outcome.

anticipation of the bullion price touching the \$500 mark.

But buyers started to re-emerge and share prices began to rise in the hope of picking up shares at the lower ends. This in turn sent share prices climbing, halting the slide of recent days.

After opening 1.2 down the F.T. Index then went into reverse to finish at its highest point of the day 0.8 up at 422.

Activity in Gilt edged also provided a firmer note from the start. Longs reported rises of about 1% while at the short end of the market gains of about 1% on the day were reported.

Low levels of activity were reported among leading industries as prices moved up and down in a fairly narrow margin. Once again Fisons featured strongly as the price rose 10p to 264, in a thin market, following its decision not to acquire Agricultural Holdings.

BOC International edged ahead 1p to 60p after better-than-feared interim figures in ICI at 370p, Unilever at 458p and Beecham at 120p.

Shares of Ferranti climbed 20p to 399p on hopes that the NEB was about to sell its stake, following better-than-expected interim figures, as it did in the case of ICL earlier in the week.

Among other companies reporting Formaster climbed 5p to

133p and Hollis Brothers and Prysor both registered gains of 2p to 46p and 105p. A 38 per cent increase in profits made for a 50p rise to 162p in Greenall Whitley but A. Monk dived 7p to 32p and Ward & Goldstone shed 60p.

The DOT inquiry into St Piran provided for a 7p fall to 58p while bid speculation continued to lift Guthrie Corporation 8p to 624p. Further reflection on recent figures from Arthur Guinness nudged the price up 3p to 189p while

BET's 5 per cent stake in the Maureen oil find provided a 4p lift to 114p.

The strong bullion price pro-

vided for a firm spot in gold shares where W. Goldstein leapt 52 to 572, Anglo American Gold improved 23p to 573p and Vast Jumps by a similar amount to 563. Selection Trust was 22p firmer at 540p while overseas buying lifted ZCI 16p to 52p.

Shares of C. T. Bowring continued to increase the pace, advancing 10p to 134p with most observers envisaging a bid

from Marsh & McLennan around the 300p mark.

Oils remained nervous as a result of the OPEC talks in Caracas while properties remained easier on as hopes of cheaper money in the near future rec-

ed.

Equity turnover on December 18, was £55.883m (£11,780 bar-

gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Tele-

graph, were BP, Shell, Ultra-

GEC, BP New, Lohner,

ICI, BAT's Lasmco, Racal Elec-

tronics, Pilkington New, Marks & Spencer and Rustenburg.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
A. Monk (I)	37.51(7.0)	0.95f (1.26)	—	Nil(1.0)	12/4	(3.5)
BOC (Int) (F)	1,228.0(1,196.5)	72.7(66.5)	11.4(8.5)	2.3(1.8)	4/4	4,223.51
Blusen (S)	5.0(3.1)	0.18(0.31)	4.36(7.22)	2.17(2.27)	3/1	3,824(3,82)
Brownell Co (I)	12.0(10.5d)	8.0(4.5)	1.0(0.5)	1.0(1.6)	31/1	—
Couper Initiatives (I)	12.0(10.5d)	4.43(2.1)	—	b0.6(0.5)	2/4	—
Dame Inv (I)	—	0.12(0.14)	1.76(2.02)	1.6(1.5)	26/2	(3.5)
Equity Consort (I)	—	0.30(0.22)	2.5(2.0)	2.5(2.0)	31/1	—
Electric & Gen (I)	—	0.31(0.22)	1.73(1.36)	0.85(0.5)	11/2	—
Ferranti (I)	95.1(82.5)	3.51(2.22)	8.25(6.7)	1.69(1.54)	25/2	(3.16s)
Globe (I)	—	0.10(0.64)	16.17(11.5)	2.5(1.6)	22/2	5.25(2.93)
Greensill Whalley (F)	16.2(13.06)	13.23(10.58)	4.37(8.1)	1.4(1.3)	15/2	(5.1)
Hills Bros (I)	26.5(24.4)	5.0(1.0)	6.40(6.69)	4.25(6.38)	12/7	27/2
Nottingham Bark (F)	3.0(2.1)	—	9.2(8.51)	6.0(6.47)	3/1	16,064(12.8)
Poly (I)	—	—	1.11(0.77)	1.0(0.55)	31/1	(2.1)
Reinforced Metal (I)	10.0(9.36)	3.4(2.8)	15.2(13.4)	2.0(1.01)	1/4	4,012(2.38)
Redman Heenan (F)	45.5(34.21)	0.36(0.15)	6.16(6.14)	1/4	2.56(2.38)	—
Spencer Clark (F)	10.0(8.2)	—	1.83(1.4)	25/1	—	—
Stampak Gen (I)	0.03(0.07)	0.03(0.05)	2.89(2.79)	0.9(0.3)	—	—
Ward-Goldstone (I)	1.91(1.4)	36.0(30.3)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Earnings per share multiply the net dividend by 1.48. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Before adjusting for scrip. b= Gross. c=26 weeks. d=27 weeks. e=Net revenue: f=Loss.

First-half losses at A. Monk

By Baron Phillips

A sharp downturn in the profitability of two major contracts—in Milton Keynes and the Isle of Wight—have contributed to a half-time loss for civil engineers and building contractors A. Monk. For the six months to August 31, 1979 Monk produced pretax losses of £955,000 against a pretax profit of £1.26m at the same stage last year. Turnover at the half-way stage was up marginally from £37m to £37.5m. Last year it was believed that the move to property company St Piran was set to stage

a takeover bid for Monk. At one time St Piran held a nearly 30 per cent stake in the group.

Chairman Mr William Whittingham says that delays in a £2m road building contract at Milton Keynes have resulted from problems with an earthworks report originally supplied to the company. It has meant the contractor will not be completed until at least July instead of last year. Turnover at the half-way stage was up marginally from £37m to £37.5m.

No forecast is being made for the year-end result but the board expects to make a profit at the end of the 12 month period. But Mr Whittingham warns that current contracts are being affected by the lifting last May of price controls which is seriously undermining many of the group's projects.

Monk is unlikely that the group will pro-

No Fisons bid for Agricultural

Fisons, the chemicals and fertilizers group, has pulled out of its proposed acquisition of the seeds and engineering businesses of Agricultural Holdings after discovering a "substantial reduction" in profits from those forecast for the year.

Agricultural Holdings, one of Britain's largest private companies, agreed to join the group in August for 4.5m Fisons ordinary shares. Work on completion of the deal was due to start in October.

Monk's existing product ranges, at the half-way stage this year, Fisons profits were 35 per cent down at £7.34m after sharp falls in the second half. Last year, in the absence of uncontrollable factors a satisfactory rate of profit was maintained.

The interim dividend has been doubled to 9.7p gross.

Newcomer to Over-the-Counter market

Board see little sign of improvement in conditions of world economy which pulled down pre-tax profits by 5 per cent to £40.1m in the year to end-September. Last year sterling's strength cut income by 5.65m and exchange losses on overseas working capital rose from £5.3m to £9.5m. In the current year inflation and low economic activity will restrain activity.

Plyus profit is nearly doubled

Plyus, the plastic container manufacturer, almost doubled its pretax profit in the first half on a 35 per cent sales increase.

Profit went from £560,000 to £1.2m and turnover rose to

£9.5m in the 28 weeks to October 29, 1979.

Chairman Mr C. S. J. Summerlin said that high demand for the group's bottles and 20-25 litre containers contributed to the growth but that housewares activity declined in the second half and "remained at a low level."

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Montague L Meyer buys Dutch group

Timber importer and distributor, Montague L Meyer is to acquire the Dutch timber merchants Van Riesen Beheer BV at a cost of Dfl23.4m (approximately £7m) which includes a Dfl5.4m modern terminal at Middlebury. Meyer will issue

NEAR AND ZAMBIA

No interim (same). Turnover for half year to September 9 £5.33m (£5m). Trading loss was £2.7m (£0.6m). Pre-tax profit share £0.2m (£0.15m). Board is selling certain assets relating to its industrial division at Aylesbury, Bucks, for £1.3m cash. Purchaser is British Rototherm Company.

CANDECCA ACQUISITION

Boards of Candecca Resources Cambrian Exploration announced that negotiations have concluded which will result in an offer being made on behalf of Candecca for all issued share capital of Cambrian after full consideration of the terms of the offer. There are no Candecca shares for every Cambrian share.

BOOKER-McCONNELL

Proposed merger of agricultural management division with international Basic Economic Corporation (55 per cent owned by Rockefeller family), will provide

Business appointments**New joint chairman of S.G. Warburg & Co**

Mr David G. Scholey, at present deputy chairman, has been appointed joint chairman of S.G. Warburg & Co. Mr Geoffrey C. Seligman will join him as joint chairman.

Mr Christopher Ward has been appointed managing director of Kirby Dartford.

Mr Keith H. Williams has been made engineering director of the group. Mr E. L. Williams, Mr M. R. Earlow and Mr M. White join the board of Fremont Underwriting Management.

Mr George Lewis is to join the board of Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings and Rolls-Royce director. His place at Eden Vale is taken by Mr Paul Wilkinson.

Mr Frank Nugent has been appointed executive director—materials control of Dusty Minnie Equipment.

Mr A. M. G. Galliers-Pratt has been appointed group managing director of F. Pratt Engineering Corporation. This is in addition to his position as group chairman. Group Mr J. P. Bell has been appointed group vice-president.

Mr W. G. Frizzell is made deputy group chairman responsible for finance and administration and deputy chairman of the board of the company. Mr S. W. Murray Threlfall is appointed deputy group chairman responsible for personnel and training.

Mr P. E. Constable has become a director of Norman Friesell Life and Pensions.

Mr James Lee is to become deputy chairman of Pearson Forster & Crosby.

Mr Anthony J. Tenant is joining the board of Safeguard Industrial Investments.

Mr Christopher Ward has been appointed managing director of Schlesinger International Management.

Mr Kenneth Cork has been appointed director of the Karspan Company, a position he relinquished last year to be Lord Mayor of London.

Mr James S. Heaton, is joining the board of Peter Black Holdings.

Mr C. E. Proctor and Mr D. E. Petchell will be resigning from the board of Cesal this month.

Mr P. H. Dean has been elected president of the Mining Association. Dr A. W. Smith has been elected vice-president and Mr S. J. Whittemore is being succeeded as secretary by Mr L. H. Snelling.

Mr John Whitworth has joined Holt Lloyd International as financial director of its United Kingdom division.

Mr James Beauchamp and Mr Leonard Morris have been appointed to the board of Kitchen Queen Group.

Miss Vivien van Dijk, Mr Paul Massey and Mr Hugh Turrial-Clarke have been elected principals in Tower, Perrin, Forster & Crosby.

Mr P. E. Hooton is to join the board of Nexo's Office Systems board as sales and marketing director.

Mr James Lee is to become deputy chairman of Pearson Forster & Crosby.

Sale talk boosts Ferranti

By Alison Mitchell

Hopes that the NEB will sell its 50 per cent stake in Ferranti on the back of better-than-expected interim figures added 20p to the share price yesterday at 399p.

The decision to close the transformer division was made in September and up to 400 employees could be made redundant.

In November the group sold Ferranti-Packard for £1.75m, on £7.6m and the cash from this sale has gone to reduce borrowings. In the half year interest charges rose from a previous £1.1m to £1.9m.

The transformer division is the continuing black spot with the group. Although the division is to be closed down on the completion of the current year, first-half losses from this side amounted to £200,000 and Fer-

ranti has made a £4.5m non-tax provision in take in the costs of closure and exchange differences. Reports account for around a third of group turnover.

Against a pre-tax profit of £1.1m last year, forecasts for the current period centre on £1.1m which gives the group a prospective p/e ratio of 16 fully taxed.

For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 4.14

MARKET REPORTS

ount
ket

of credit proved ade-
yesterday and market
believed that there was
a fair-sized surplus left
item at the end of the
authorities, however,
intervene.

uch of the session, the
rate and uneven flow
suggested that the market
was more than the underlying
indicated.

In fact, from one
shd 17 per cent, and
the day's activity was
the band of 16 to 17 per
cent.

In the afternoon, the
in the afternoon, the
towards the finish, and
balances were taken
tions of 15 per cent to
out more readily.
sources of liquidity
tified as small flows,
balances brought over
day and large excess of
disbursements over
receipts.

by Market

and Minimum Lending Rate 17%

Last changed 15/12/79. Rate 17%

Bank Rate 17%.

Bank of England 17%.

Bank of Scotland 17%.

Bank of Wales 17%.

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: With Tony Blackburn's regular music feature, 'Million' has some Christmas food ideas.
1.45 The Flumps: children's story. What a Carrot (r).
2.00 Film: Life with Father (1947). Turn-of-the-century romantic comedy with William Powell as the father and Elizabeth Taylor as the upstart of domestic strife.
3.30 Play School: the story of The Mail Coach. Plus old-fashioned Christmas scenes at Bonsall, Derbyshire.
4.20 Deputy Dawg: the cartoon Mr Moose (r).
4.25 Jackanory: Spike Milligan reads part 3 of Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Toothpaste Factory, by John Antrobus.
4.40 Screen Test: movie quiz. Wish Caesarsburg High School and Newark Magdalen High School.
5.05 John Craven's Newround: junior newsreaders.

BBC 2

will not have escaped your attention that most critics have rather rude about the BBC's weekly quiz contest Blankety and that the BBC in turn (and in its Handbook for 1980) hung smartly to its defence, saying about its runaway success that it is "a simple piece of harmless fun, skilfully produced by Terry Wogan". Simple? Yes. Harmless? Probably. But brain-numbing and trivial, too, and in the final analysis because the key words which are supposed to be common and between puns and visitors are artfully chosen and it seems to play no part at all in their creation. As for Mr Wogan's skill in bantering the participants as though they were naughty schoolboys, it is indeed commendable. When he hits them with his baton-like microphone, he becomes a manqué. More simple, harmless, skilfully handled fun (BBC 1, 7.55).

Er Noon Plus (ITV, 2.00) is getting very ambitious these days and can no longer (if, indeed it ever could) be dismissed by who has probably never seen it as cosy viewing for the pleased. Today, for instance, it carries the first major (ie end searching) interview with the Rt Rev Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury. The interviewer, Mavis Iron, throws everything at him—the ordination of women, relations between the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church ("aren't you a little bit jealous of the Pope's?" she asks) and waning public respects for the Church of England. Completing the programme is a visit to Ridley Hall, Anglican training college in Cambridge.

In the musical fantasy *Quincy's Quest* (ITV, 7.00), the mas season on television can be said officially to have Santa Claus and carols apart, what could better befit the season than the sight of Tommy Steele, as a torn doll shop, hoping to enlist Father Christmas's help in saving other unfortunate like him from being cast into a furnace? I read that it took a year to film *Quincy's Quest* so that there were two years of planning. It is with such care that the advent of a cinema epic is heralded. Despite expectations remain high.

In Tydeman's production of *Dosen's A Doll's House* (Radio 4) is a brand new one and it is broadcast 100 years (all but after the play's first performance in Copenhagen). The cast now: Ian McKellen as Torvald Helmer, Susan round as Nelly, David Buck as Niels Krogstad and Michael Redgrave as Dr Rank. Before you tire of it you might like to turn to Radio 4 (7.30) to hear it again at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool... In part two of each travel van, Tom Vernon, the self-styled Fat Man on 2, explains what he did when he found a naked lady in his van (Radio 4, 10.05 am).

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; PEAT.

THAMES

7.30 am Secret Diaries: William Trevor's Daily Journal. The year 1932—a dramatic momentary story: life in those days (r).
8.45 Dynemite: The Great Brain Train Robbery: animated adventure.
10.15 Family: A Tale Out of Season. Another story about an American family, the Lawrences.
11.05 Survival Special: Search for the Shinobars. How they extricated the dead and their belongings from a sunken Japanese submarine in the Pacific.
11.30 The Bubbles: cartoon.
12.00 Topper's Tales: The late (sorely missed) Julian Orchard tells the story of Father Christmas (r).
12.10 pm Sleeping Stones: the stone things wooden.
12.30 The Sullivanites: stories of an Australian family in the last war.
1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News.
1.30 Afternoon Plus: includes an exclusive interview with Robert

Runcie, the next Archbishop of Canterbury (see Personal Choice).

2.45 The Caledonian Cascade: Alma Cullen's play about a judge's lonely wife (Barbara Murray) who makes a stand against her husband (Ian Cuthbertson) and society generally. A comedy (r).
3.45 Looks Familiar: show business quiz. With Glynis Jones, Bernard Manning, Albert Modley, Norman Vaughan:

4.15 Project UFO: the mysterious thing that chases two men down a road.
4.30 am Secret Diaries: William Trevor's Daily Journal. The year 1932—a dramatic momentary story: life in those days (r).
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.
6.25 Crossroads: medical series.
7.00 Television's *Quincy's Quest*: Spectacular musical fable set in a toy store at Christmas time (see Personal Choice).
8.30 The Jim Davidson Show: Comedy half-hour (r).
9.00 Fallen Hero: Last part of this serial about a former Rugby League player. Tonight, his stepson is accused of murder and he offers to pay for the defence.
10.00 News.
10.30 A Famous Journey: Kenneth Griffiths, actor and historical researcher, of high repute, goes to the Holy Land on the steps of the Three Wise Men. He calls this result an agnostic's view of the life of Jesus.
11.30 Late Night Elkie: Songs from Elkie Brooks with the Humphrey Lyttleton band.
12.00 What the Papers Say: News review by the *Times* cartoonist.
12.15 am Close-up: Andrew Cruckshank, through the Year with J. B. Phillips.

Barbara Murray : ITV, 2.45.

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OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.20 Today.
7.00 8.00 News.
7.15 8.30 Headlines.
8.00 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.02 Checkpoint.
9.30 The Living World.
10.00 News.
10.05 Fat Man on a Bicycle (2).†
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 The Bandsman's Daughter

11.00 News.

11.50 A Certain Style.

12.00 News.

12.35 Comedy: Foley.†

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

2.02 Listen with Mother.

3.15 Play: In-flight Reunion, by Christopher Jones.

4.15 Any Answers?

4.45 Concerto: Brahms.†

5.45 Clarinet (Hacker) and string quartet: Haydn, Blake.†

6.45 Chamber quintet: Brahms.†

7.45 News.

7.50 Flute and piano: Seabrook, Martin, Fernyhough, Kocsar, Helmuth.†

8.10 Polish Chamber Orch/ MakSYMUK: Tchakovsky, Bach.†

8.45 News.

9.05 J. C. Bach.†

9.45 Part-songs: Ramsey, Elgar, Gardner.†

10.25 French baroque music: Boismortier, Duphly, St Colombe, de Visée, Marais.†

11.25 Flute and piano: Seabrook, Martin, Fernyhough, Kocsar, Helmuth.†

12.10 pm Polish Chamber Orch/ MakSYMUK: Tchakovsky, Bach.†

1.00 News.

1.15 File on 4.

1.50 A Certain Style.

2.00 News.

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